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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, JULY 10-12, 2015

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Park visits see slide

REPORT

Official blames lower numbers on post-flood 'confusion'



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Advocates for Alberta's parks hope Albertans will return in greater numbers this summer after being conspicuously absent last year, according to annual surveys the province commissions.

Just 28.4 per cent of Albertans reported visiting a provincial park at least once in the preceding 12 months, according to the Environment Ministry's 2014-15 annual report.

That's down from 33.7 per cent the year before, which had marked the highest level in the

past half-decade. Rates previously hovered around 32 or 33 per cent.

Alberta Parks spokeswoman Jill Sawyer said the sudden drop-off could be attributed to the flood of 2013, which wiped out highways and damaged trails and campgrounds in popular mountain areas.

"For the first year or so after the flood, there was a lot of confusion about what was open," she said. "We think that might have affected people's usage."

Sawyer said she expects to see the numbers rebound, especially given the relatively nice weather so far this spring and summer.

Casey Peirce, executive director of the Association for Mountain Parks Protection and Enjoyment, is also optimistic about Albertans returning to their natural backyard playgrounds.

"It appears that more Albertans are staying closer to home this year, likely due to the economic situation in our province," she said.



Trey Benton III from Rock Island, Texas, is bucked off Wrangler Extreme during Day 7 of the Calgary Stampede rodeo. More Stampede coverage in metroNEWS. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO



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Sting operations target sex trade in Forest Lawn

PROSTITUTION

Long-time resident credits city police for positive change

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Art Sheeler remembers it clearly. About 10 years ago, he was consoling his neighbour after her 12-year-old was approached by a desperate sex trade worker outside of their home asking for \$10 in exchange for "making him into a man."

Sheeler, who has been a community advocate against sex-trade work and drug use for decades, said he has countless stories of sex-trade workers frequenting his neighbourhood.

But, after living in the community for more than 40 years, he said he's finally starting to see a positive change.

"Oh heavens yes, it really has improved," he said in an interview with Metro Monday.

Sheeler believes the community has the Calgary Police to thank for the improvements.

"Our police here in Calgary police with the brains in their head and not the muscle in their arm," said Sheeler.

On Tuesday, CPS announced that two sting operations over



Art Sheeler has been a community advocate for more than 40 years. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

The city police ... try and talk them into getting their lives straightened around and they help these women who are down and out. Resident Art Sheeler

for the purposes of obtaining sexual services from a minor.

Sheeler said when he has voiced his concerns about the sex trade in his community, he felt the police listened, and have taken appropriate steps in dealing with the issue.

"The city police have been so involved in helping with this," he said. "They try and talk them into getting their lives straightened around and they help these women who are down and out."

Staff Sgt. Martin Schiavetta of the Calgary Police Services Vice Unit said the women his unit tries to help in the city's sex-trade industry are socially marginalized.

"(They are) suffering from mental illness, drug addiction, abuse and things of that nature," he said.

With the introduction of beat cops as well as a bike patrol unit over the past few years, strides have been made to reduce sex-trade activity in the area.

"We don't have as many problems there as we used to (in that area)," said Det. Adena Warren.

Sheeler said although he knows prostitution will never fully disappear, he is glad to see the work of CPS paying off in his neighbourhood.

"I used to see it at all hours of the day and I really don't anymore," he said.

WEEKEND WEATHER

Heat advisory issued



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

It's so hot out. Hot enough to cause negative effects for human health — all weekend long — according to a heat advisory from Alberta Health Services.

"Normal activity that may be safe on a cool day might be dangerous in current weather conditions," Dr. Brent Friesen, medical officer of health for the Calgary zone, said in a statement. "If you start to feel overheated, stop your activity immediately, seek shade and drink fluids."

Friesen said it's important for Calgarians and visitors to the city during the busy Stampede weekend to pay close attention to how they're feeling, since heat stroke can sneak up on a person.

"Seek medical attention immediately for any individual feeling faint," he said. "While awaiting medical attention, move the individual to a shaded area, and remove his or her outer clothing and shoes. You should also wrap the person in a wet towel until medical care is being provided."

Children, seniors and people with pre-existing breathing or heart conditions are particularly vulnerable to heat-related illness, according to AHS, as are outdoor workers and people who are socially isolated.

With forecasts calling for high temperatures throughout the weekend, AHS is keeping the heat advisory active until 3 p.m. on Sunday.

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Foot traffic has fallen in Waves

RETAIL

Construction may impact business on 17th Avenue



Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

It's been three months since Ferdinand Asturias has seen half of his regular customers at Waves Coffee House on 17th Avenue.

Since Alberta's economy dropped alongside the price of oil last winter, he says he's seen the foot traffic down the street fall significantly. And with construction plans for 17th Avenue looming, he's worried it will "kill a lot of the businesses here."

A road safety review is underway by the city, marking the first step of the construction that's expected to begin next spring — but the announcement is bringing mixed emotions from business owners like Asturias.

"In the end, it will be good," said Asturias. "But they don't have to do it now where everything's so slow, because during the construction, it's just going to be awful for us ... business has gone down already."



Ferdinand Asturias has been operating Waves Coffee House for three years and says he's seen multiple collisions at the intersection of 17 Avenue and 5 Street SW. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Ryan Murray, with Calgary's transportation department, said that 17th Avenue "has just reached the end of its life."

"These roads see 20 to 30

thousands of traffic, with tens of thousands of vehicles per day," he said. "We have to rebuild it, for the pavement especially."

According to Murray, the intersection of 17 Avenue and 5 Street SW, where Waves Coffee House sits, is a "hot spot" for vehicles and collisions,

seeing 37,300 vehicles per day and 30 collisions in 2013.

Murray added that making the roadway safe for pedestrians "is a really big con-

cern," and that the focus is on improving the sidewalks as opposed to widening the roads.

Asturias said that even through the recession, his electronic foot-counter calculated that 8,000 people walk by the coffee shop each week. He also said he's witnessed multiple collisions in the intersection.

"Making the change is going to help a lot," he said. "It would give the pedestrians a lot more comfort in walking around the area, but I feel like if they do it at the wrong time, it's going to kill everybody's business."

Currently, city officials are contacting businesses on 17th Avenue, watching the roads for review and inspecting the state of the earth and utilities beneath the road.

Recommendations and designs are expected to be complete in September with construction starting in spring 2016. The project is currently budgeted for \$20 million.

"(Business owners) know that construction can be a pitfall," said Murray. "We've seen it time-in and time-out, every construction season. So our goal is to keep businesses open during construction, and keep people coming to 17th Avenue ... that's what our goal is in construction."

HOT SPOTS

17th Avenue and 14th Street SW

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- 40 collisions in 2013
- 37,300 vehicles per day
- 2.94 collisions per 1,000,000 entering vehicles



HOT SPOTS

17th Avenue and 5th Street SW

Ranked seventh highest in Calgary for collision and traffic rates:

- 30 collisions in 2013
- 27,500 vehicles per day
- 2.99 collisions per 1,000,000 entering vehicles



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Staff Sgt. Rob Van Gastel and Stampede spokesman Kurt Kadatz addressed media Thursday regarding the midway stabbings. LUCIE EDWARDS/ON FOR METRO

SOCIAL MEDIA

Police looking into viral video of sex act

Calgary police are exploring possible charges after a sexually explicit viral video has put the microscope on the annual Calgary Stampede.

The video of a young woman and two men engaging in sexual activity together first picked up steam on social media Tuesday and has since been screen captured and shared over multiple platforms.

The video was shot in an undisclosed location and the

three appear to be in cowboy regalia complete with boots and hats. All parties involved are believed to be from Calgary.

Soon after, the woman, who Metro isn't naming, was identified online speaking about the encounter and has subsequently taken down all social media accounts. The men involved have also been identified online.

Police have told Metro they're investigating whether

charges could be laid for public indecency, cyberbullying or both. They're in touch with all three subjects. Police did say the act was consensual.

The Calgary Police Service web page states only "some forms of online bullying are considered criminal acts" and that bullies could be violating the Canadian Human Rights Act by spreading hate or discrimination based on sex.

CPS told Metro they were

looking into whether or not there was consent to having a video shot and shared, but because of the video's viral nature, investigators are trying to determine its origin.

Several fake Facebook accounts and fan pages have been created applauding and also shaming the young woman involved. But, the men in the video haven't been subject to the same level of derogatory commentary. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Stabbings injure 3

THE MIDWAY

One man left in critical condition

Lucie
Edwardson
For Metro | Calgary

Calgary police continued to investigate multiple stabbings late Thursday that took place on the Calgary Stampede midway early in the morning.

Around 12:30 a.m., police responded to a call involving several stabbing victims. Three men were sent to hospital, where one remained in critical condition later in the day, according to police.

Det. Travis Ibach said there was a "large disturbance" on the midway, adding police have been talking to witnesses and have also detained numerous people for questioning.

"We're just talking to everybody and interviewing, trying to figure out what happened," Ibach said.

Staff Sgt. Rob Van Gastel urged any additional witnesses who saw anything suspicious to come forward.

"We believe that there are people who know what happened last night and it is important that they tell police or Crime Stoppers what occurred so that we can move forward with our investigation," he told reporters Thursday afternoon, at which point no arrests had been made.

Jennifer Booth, manager of public relations for the Calgary Stampede, said security guards have done random bag checks at the Stampede gates for a long time, but said there will be an increase in the frequency of bag checks in light of the incident.

"Unfortunately a bag check doesn't always find things of this nature," she said. "An individual might have it on their person and we do everything we can to keep our guests safe."

Booth said this is the first time in 10 years there has been an incident of this severity at the Stampede.

"We have had more than 10 million people who have been through Stampede safely," she said.

Police and Stampede officials both emphasized that an incident of this nature is rare, and said they are working together to keep all those at Stampede safe.

After Stampede is over, Booth said their team looks at ways they can improve their practices.

"I think that a lot of these issues are brought up as we finish Stampede each year and we look at how we can make it safer for the next year," she said.

Booth said they currently have police officers stationed at all entrances to help with security, including bag checks, in efforts to keep the Stampede as safe as possible for all those who attend.

Sections of the midway near where the incident took place were closed to patrons for hours Thursday as police investigated, but have since reopened.



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A petition brought forward by a northwest Calgary community association has put the construction of a new skate park on hold. METRO FILE

ECA gives hard flip to skate park

CITY PLANNING

Concerned citizens tell city to shove-it, move park site



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

No kick turns are in store for Edgemont. Anytime soon, that is.

The Edgemont Community Association (ECA) decided at a recent meeting to rule out the John Laurie Park site for the community's highly contested skate park.

The skate park was slated to begin construction this summer but went off the rails last minute after a group of concerned citizens, now part of the ECA board, came forward with a petition to move the park site. The city decided to put the project on hold and concentrate on other skate parks while they search for a new location.

During the June 22 board meetings, three motions were brought forward by the ECA on the proposed skate park. One to eliminate John Laurie park as a potential location, another to take a "three-year learning period" before revisiting the skate park idea and lastly a motion to have an effective community engagement process about the skate park.

Brent McConnell, the communications co-chair, told Metro after discussions with the city the board decided to defer a decision on the location for three years to give time for proper community engagement.

"It could be much more successful if it's done right," said McConnell.

Zev Klymochko, founder of the Calgary Association for Skateboard Enthusiasts said the group is disappointed the project has turned out, but they remain optimistic.

"We're working with a number of open-minded and progressive communities," Klymochko said. "Slowly but surely inaccur-



Slowly but surely inaccurate prejudices towards skateboarding are changing.

Zev Klymochko

ate prejudices towards skateboarding are changing."

Meanwhile, the area city councillor agrees with the approach.

"I think it's a good decision," Chu said. "I'm always behind the community association."

Chu added the group has always said they will help find a suitable location whether it be in Edgemont or elsewhere.

He continued to suggest the city move the project to a chunk of land beside the Dalhousie LRT station.

The City of Calgary confirmed they received a letter detailing the ECA's wishes from the association, but were unable to provide further comment by press time.



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PROPERTY CRIME

Citizens not locking up homes when they leave



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Calgary police believe they have started to put a lid on

soaring rates of property crime but say they still need help from citizens, who continue to leave doors unlocked at a surprisingly high rate.

As Metro reported Wednesday, the number of property crimes in Calgary has jumped by 43 per cent so far in 2015. In response, police rededicated more than 60 officers specifically to the file earlier this year.

That surge ended in May, after running for a month.

"It was quite resource-intensive, so we found we couldn't run it longer than that," said Insp. Gerry Francois.

Numerous "prolific offenders" were arrested and charged in the blitz, which police believe has put a dent in the rates of break-ins and thefts, but Francois said officers need more help from the public.

In the first six months of 2015, Francois said 65 per

cent of residential break-and-enters saw the culprits gained access to the homes through an unlocked door.

That's up slightly from 63 per cent of cases last year, he noted, despite a plea from Calgary police earlier this year to have city residents better secure their properties.

"Two-thirds of these crimes are really preventable, if people safeguard their property," he said.



Ty Sowiak, a glazier for Around The Clock Glass Services, slowly tears down broken glass at the Bow Trail Dairy Queen after a 2015 break-in. JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO FILE

STRATHMORE

Homes with linked garages popping up

Not quite duplexes, and not quite stand-alone homes, houses with attached garages are popping up around Alberta — and it's bringing along a welcome price-point for some Calgarians.

Jager Homes and WestView Builders were hired by United Communities to build Strathmore's new community, the Ranch. The garages share a wall, but the homes themselves are separated by 1.5 metres of space.

Paul Douglas, development manager at United Communities, said it began as a way to work around Strathmore's building bylaws, which mandated that any non-attached house had to be on a lot that was at least 50 feet wide.

With these residences coming in at 1,500 to 1,700 square feet, Jerry Trgina with WestView Builders said size of the homes is sacrificed, but they were driven "mostly by price point."

"With the oil crisis happening over the last eight months, it's

turned away some of the buyers from the high-end market," said Trgina.

"So right now, you're starting to see the smaller-sized products and the lower prices doing better."

Houses like this have been around for a while, but new homeowner Ian Vaughan said he'd like to see more homes like this make their way into Calgary's inner city.

"With the market the way it is, people are going to have to start coming up with more ideas like this," he said. "People like me, in the middle class, are being pitched pretty hard to buy our first home, and I had to sacrifice a lot to get very little, so I think anything like that would be very positive."

The homes start around \$350,000, and according to Zee Tassi, area manager with Jager homes, the style is saving buyers "roughly \$100,000."

JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO



A rendering of homes with attached garages being sold in Strathmore's new community, the Ranch. CONTRIBUTED

DOWNTOWN

700 flee building after possible explosion

Calgary firefighters responded to a call just after 10 a.m. Thursday morning about a possible explosion at a downtown building.

Crews discovered an electrical problem on the sixth floor of a highrise building located at the 600 block of 5 Avenue SW.

The fire department said in a release that employees heard

a loud sound coming from the mechanical room that was thought to be an explosion.

They said that one quick-thinking employee shut the door to the mechanical room and pulled the fire alarm.

Approximately 700 people fled from the building and no injuries have been reported. METRO

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52302	2LT AUTO RS pkg	\$28,950	21.66%	\$22,679			
52320	2LS AUTO Onstar & A/C	\$22,715	20.06%	\$18,159			
52337	2LS AUTO Onstar & A/C	\$22,520	20.05%	\$18,005			
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52381	DIESEL sun and sound pkg	\$30,135	21.09%	\$23,781			
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Elevate your Midway experience

STAMPEDE

Here are some food and drink pairs to try



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

If you're going to hit the midway and gorge yourself on delicious fatty foods, you don't just have to resort to the common grog on tap.

Thinking outside the grounds and going with the rodeo theme, here are some delectable pairings to get you through the Calgary Stampede in style.

"When I go to the Stampede, or the IPE in British Columbia, that interior provincial exhibition, I will always have a corn dog and I will always have a lemonade," said Michael Bigattini, a local sommelier and all-booze-expert with Willow Park Wine & Spirits.

"I've actually never tasted these combinations before, I'm pretty sure they're going to be awesome," said Bigattini.

Bigattini said when it comes to fair foods, beer is almost always your best bet, because the acidity from the hops and bitterness help cut the fat and allow each bite to taste as delicious as the last.

Here's what Bigattini recommends:



Poutine with a Wildrose Electric Avenue lager

On the Stampede grounds you may be out of luck and stuck ordering a Budweiser, but for a snack after the party this could hit just the spot.



Bacon-wrapped corn on the cob with Michele Satta Giovin Re. 100% Viognier

This white wine is dry and full bodied but "buttery." In a pinch, try to find something to match.



Classic fair fare mini doughnuts with a fancy Manhattan

The so-good, but-so-bad-for-you classic dessert is being served with the classic cocktail. It's spicy and sweet with richness and a maraschino cherry to garnish.



Cinnamon roll with Fonseca Tawny Port

This is a dessert wine with warmer flavours like cinnamon mixed with butter-scotch and spice.



Corn dog served with a French 75

It's basically an alcoholic lemonade.

CINNAMON ROLLS: ISTOCK; ALL OTHER PHOTOS MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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FESTIVAL

Local musicians take a turn in the spotlight for Afrikadey!



Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

When Jamil Ahmed took over an open-mic jam five months ago, he didn't expect it to lead him to the stage of the 24th annual Afrikadey! World Music Festival.

The Groove Theory jam started at the Below Deck Tavern as a way to bring Calgary's musicians together. But it wasn't until Tunde Dawodu, founder of Afrikadey! Arts & Culture Society, stepped in that they launched a song-writing competition for the festival.

Dawodu opted to take this year's Afrikadey! in a different direction, dubbing the 2015 festival "Music for Discovery." He said he wanted to show off Calgary's talent by bringing on more local acts than ever.

"People are so used to what is familiar, rather than going out to explore what is available," said Dawodu.

"So we want to show people that familiar names are not the only thing that is available. There is a lot of other great music out there; we just have



Belting out a rock-steady, soulful beat, Sammy Jean, left, and Jamil Ahmed perform for the crowd passing by Stephen Avenue. JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

to be an explorer. You might be surprised by what you find."

On June 25, eight different bands took the stage at the Below Deck Tavern, vying for one of the three spots on the Afrikadey! stage. Ahmed's Uno Band took first place, followed by Sammy Jean and the Samsonites and then The Lost Lemons.

"We're showing the city that there is a sound here," said Ahmed.

"What I like about what's

happening this year is that all these great local artists will be playing alongside others from across the world, so it's going to be very diverse."

Afrikadey! runs from Aug. 6 to 8 on Prince's Island Park. The lineup will include reggae artist Rocky Dawuni, Nigerian songwriter Sonia Aimy and Bata Osun from Nigeria.

The three Calgary winners from Groove Theory's song-writing competition will take the stage on Aug. 8.

'No limits' at Cyclepalooza

ACTIVITIES

Festival allows residents to create their own events



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's fifth annual Cyclepalooza, a grassroots festival of bike-related fun things, starts Friday and the lineup of activities is as diverse and eclectic as ever.

"It's a make-your-own festival," said Bike Calgary's Kimberley Nelson, one of the festival facilitators who help tie together the independently organized events, which are then posted in an online calendar at cyclepalooza.ca.

"Anybody can post a ride of any type or description. There are really no limits."

There is, however, a guidebook that offers recommendations on the types of cycling events that facilitators are looking for and how they should be

WHEN TO GO

The festival runs for 10 days, concluding July 19.

structured, depending on the ages and cycling abilities of the target participants.

Events range from casual rides like the Art on Wheels! tour of public art in Calgary to more intense road rides like the BikesnBrews: Tour de Cochrane, which sees cyclists venture to the town west of Calgary for craft coffee tasting and specialty bike-shop visits.

Some events are free and some are not. Others have optional fees, such as the Home-2Hive Tour of urban beekeeping locations, which costs \$15 unless you dress in a bee costume for the entire ride, in which case it's free.

Then there's the Bike Prom on Friday night, which, according to the description, is "a night of bicycling, dancing, music, and goooooood times."

"That's always the kickoff and usually draws a couple hundred people," Nelson said.



The Piñatas Ride closed 2014's Cyclepalooza, involving, as the name suggests, bikes and piñatas.

TOP RIGHT: The annual Funkadelic Radio Ride sees riders carry radios with them, all tuned to the same station, CJSW. Says the description: "The more radios we have the bigger the pedalling funk party will be!"

RIGHT: This year's festival will include a Yarn Bomb yo' Bike! event, offering lessons on how to knit or crochet custom bike covers. CONTRIBUTED



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Living the suburban life

IN DEFENCE OF

Mike Morrison
Metro | Calgary

I've always considered myself an urban Calgarian. I don't own a car, and I like to walk and bike everywhere. If fact, in the 10 years I've lived in Calgary, I've only ever lived in Kensington and Mission, easily Calgary's most walkable neighbourhoods.

Well, all that changed last week when I went and did something I swore I'd never do: Move to the suburbs. Or at least what I consider to be the suburbs: Crescent Heights.

For 99 per cent of the population, living within spitting distance of Diner Deluxe on Edmonton Trail isn't the suburbs, but for a guy who's never lived this far from downtown Calgary it feels like I moved to a completely different city.

Moving to the 'burbs has come with some harsh realities, like having to put out the garbage. Is this



Diner Deluxe at 804 Edmonton Trail NE is one of the new "suburban" eateries Mike Morrison found after a recent move. MIKE MORRISON/FOR METRO

something you guys all do every week? How do you remember? I've already forgotten both times. And many people celebrate liv-

ing in the 'burbs because you get to have a lawn, or as the developers often call it, a "green space." But so far I haven't figured out

what to do with it. Do I just sit there? And when does the city come and mow it? The grass is growing longer and longer by the day, and I



Moving to the 'burbs has come with some harsh realities, like having to put out the garbage. Is this something you guys all do every week?

have no idea what to do.

But it hasn't all been bad. Living in a completely new neighbourhood has brought with it some unexpected perks, like discovering a slew of new-to-me local businesses like an amazing butcher called Calgary Meats and the Plantation garden centre, not to mention the unbelievably good food finds like Halibut House, House of Kabob and Calgary Shawarma.

I've also been forced to bike more than ever before. So, if you ever see a bald guy sitting on the curb of Edmonton Trail crying beside his bike, that's me. Pull over, pick me up and drive me to the top of the hill.

I already feel like the move has also given me a new perspective. Even

though I live in the same ward and riding as I have for the past six years, it really does feel like a different part of the city. The concerns that I had before have completely changed, and even though it's only been a week, I'm already beginning to understand the wants and needs of Calgarians likely change with every avenue.

And like Sheryl Crow once sang, maybe that change will do me good. In a growing and bustling city, it's probably never good to get too comfortable. And I gotta say, 10 years in, I kinda love that Calgary is still offering up some surprises, even if they are just down the street.

Mike Morrison tweets from @mikesbloggity

vw.ca

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Highline model shown

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Connie Fekete, one of the Calgary Stampeders' biggest fans bakes up cookies for members of the team.

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

METROTALKS CONNIE FEKETE

YOU'VE SEEN HER "GAME FACE" ON THE CALGARY STAMPEDERS MARKETING MATERIAL, HER BRIGHT RED HAIR AT THE HORSEMEN'S HOME GAMES — AND EVEN SOME OF THEIR ROAD GAMES. NOW CONNIE FEKETE TALKS WITH METRO ABOUT WHAT MAKES HER THE ULTIMATE STAMPS FAN AND HOW HER FAMILY FITS IN THE PICTURE.

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE GAME FACE

Candice Ward For Metro | Calgary

How the Love Began

"When I started going to games, it was all about the game," said Fekete.

"Once I got to know the players and staff, it morphed into so much more. It's really a whole other family to me now.

"The whole organization is so amazing and makes me feel like one of the team."

Her Family

With a husband and three kids at home, Fekete said her family has been pretty supportive of her love of football and all things Stampeders.

"He (her husband) doesn't really understand it — he's not a "fan" per se. He will watch football, but doesn't appreciate the game like I do," said Fekete.

"He tolerates my obsession. Honestly though, he's amazing when it comes to making it possible for me to run off on road trips with my girlfriends."

Fekete said her children will attend some of the events with her and along with that they're developing an interest in the game.

"I'd love for them to find anything in life that they'd be as passionate about as I am about football," she said.

Life Outside the Game

Aside from her family life, Fekete is also a pottery instructor.

"I'm a pretty ordinary person — wife, mother, teacher," said Fekete.

"I have an amazing job. Be-

cause I work as a contractor in schools, I pretty much have the whole summer off.

"My employer is very accommodating of my scheduling requests, too. If I give them reasonable notice, I don't have trouble booking work around football.

"They know I'm completely unavailable for the last week of November every year."

FAN APPRECIATION DAY
The Calgary Stampeders will tip their helmets to the fans with their Monday game against the Toronto Argonauts. Prizes will be handed out throughout the evening.

Her Own Football Career

Fekete isn't just a fan, she's also involved locally in the game she loves.

"Football altered my life. It's my family away from home — my women's team (the Calgary Rage) and my CFL friends (both fans and team members) are some of the most amazing

people," said Fekete.

"I've made friendships and had experiences that would never have been possible before my involvement with football."

Pre-Game Rituals

Just like the athletes, Fekete has her own rituals before each game.

"The hair is the obvious one, but I like to get to the stadium early enough to watch warm-up," said Fekete.

"Sometimes I bring baked goodies for the staff on game days. I like to wear whichever colour jersey the team is wearing, too."

Jerseys

As a super fan, of course Fekete owns a few Stampeders jerseys.

"If you include the framed/ game worn ones, practice jerseys, and the ones I wear to games, I have 14 now," said Fekete.

"Is that a lot?"

+ QUICK Q&A

1. Favourite sport to watch other than football?

NLL Lacrosse (Calgary Roughnecks)

2. What do you love to discuss that no one ever asks you about?

My job

3. Who is your all-time favourite Stampeders (past or present)?

Rob Maver

4. Favourite Calgary Hangout:

McMahon Stadium with Trio Grande.

5. What is your ideal vacation?

Somewhere warm and near the ocean. Hawaii is pretty amazing.

6. If we turned on your iPod,

what would be playing?

Almost anything but heavy metal. I have pretty eclectic taste in music. Sam Hunt is probably my latest addition to the playlist.

7. What movie could you watch over and over again?

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. The cinematography alone is amazing.

8. Bucket-list item you are dying to cross off?

Football related, of course. I'd love to attend every Stampeders game one season, both home and away.

9. Early bird or night owl?

Definitely a night owl. I write late at night sometimes.

10. Beer or wine?

These days, beer. But I'm a dark rum girl at heart.

Stampede art a big attraction

BACKSTAGE PASS

Artist draws on Alberta's scenery and lifestyle



Lisa Wilton
Metro | Calgary

Art was always a passion for Airdrie-based painter Brad Holt. Even when while he was showing cows at The Calgary Stampede as part of the rural youth organization 4-H Club, Holt was drawn to the indoor art exhibition.

"I would spend my days in here," says Holt, standing in his booth at the Stampede's Western Oasis, located in the BMO Centre.

"I would admire all these old artists and that's what got me interested in painting and art."

Holt is one of the Stampede's invited artists, which include painters, photographers, textile designers and sculptors from across North



Artist Brad Holt's mixed media work is featured at The Calgary Stampede's Western Oasis until Sunday. He's also the featured artist for this year's Dream Home. LISA WILTON/METRO

America.

And 22 pieces of his mixed-media artwork are featured in this year's Dream Home.

"They get thousands of applications," says Holt, who grew up on a farm just outside Strathmore.

"It's one of the best west-

ern art shows in North America. I feel blessed to be here. It's a great opportunity."

Although he was "an artist at heart," Holt went to the University of Calgary and received a science degree.

"My mom wanted me to be a dentist, but it didn't work

out," he explains.

"So I went back to what I really love."

Four years ago the 33-year-old decided to focus his energies on making art, starting with photography and then taking a more mixed-media approach.

His pieces are made of acrylic colour painted over black-and-white photo mosaics and framed in reclaimed wood.

The wood is salvaged from old homes, barns and grain elevators.

"My brother is a profes-

+ WHERE TO GO

Visit Brad Holt in his booth at the Western Oasis at the stampede until Sunday. View his artwork online at holtfineart.com

sional carpenter so he helps me out a lot," says Holt, who also worked in carpentry while going to university.

"We run around and pick up items, like old doors, grain swathers and match them with my pieces. The frames are just as much a part of the artwork as the paintings and sometimes take just as long to do."

Being a born-and-bred Albertan, it's not surprising that Holt's artwork is inspired by the magnificent scenery and cowboy history of the province.

"I'm glad that there are a lot of Albertans who still love the mountains and prairie scenes and they're loving the framing too," he says.

"It's a bit of Alberta history."



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Maimie De Silva, of Mount Royal University's Conservatory, stands inside the Bella Concert Hall, which is part of the new Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Welcoming the world

MUSIC

Program brings top talent to city

This month, 65 young classical musicians from around the world will descend on Mount Royal University's Conservatory.

The reason? Morningside Music Bridge, a month-long intensive program that allows gifted musicians between the ages of 12 and 18 to hone their craft under the mentorship of the Conservatory's talented and acclaimed faculty.

Now in its 19th year, Morningside Music Bridge holds more than 15 recitals at venues around the city, as well as the new Taylor Centre for Performing Arts at MRU.

"The idea behind the concert series is to present these emerging global talents to our community," says MMB program administrator, Maimie De Silva.

The MMB concerts feature emerging artists from around the world. How many applications do you receive each year?

Entrance to the Morningside Music Bridge program is by audition. After listening to over 500 applicants, 65 were accepted representing Canada, the United States, Poland, China and Taiwan.

Applicants have come to know the calibre of the program.

How important is a program like Morningside to the growth and continuation of classical music?

We deliver an inspirational atmosphere to encourage long-term artistic growth. We know

+ MORE INFO

For more details visit mtroyal.ca/musicbridge

the program provides our participants with performance opportunities that are similar to those they will encounter in the professional world.

Music has been described as the international language — it nourishes a sense of national and international community among these motivated young musicians who will make and keep classical music alive for generations to come.

When and where are the free recitals being held?

MMB is the first program to be held in the Taylor Center for the Performing Arts and the first to fill the halls with music. Our recitals are being held in the TransAlta Pavilion located in the new facility. Recitals begin at 7 p.m.

There will be two concerts at the new Bella Concert Hall, does this add some more motivation for the artists in the program?

For sure. The participants get the opportunity to hear some of the wonderful faculty during the Wyatt Series performance on July 18.

Then they themselves will get the opportunity to perform in the hall on July 30 when we hold our Highlights concert. Our young musicians will showcase a month of Music Bridge in this concert featuring a variety of solo, chamber and orchestral works. LISA WILTON/METRO

Your Weekend's Best Bets

1 BLAKE SHELTON

Friday — Saddledome

Mr. Miranda Lambert brings his slick modern country tunes to The Calgary Stampede. Shelton may be equally famous now for being a judge on the TV singing contest, *The Voice*, but he's a great showman who has the talent to back up the dazzle.

2 THE FAST ROMANTICS

Friday — Palomino

Calgary's own Toronto-based melodic rockers return to town with some new songs and old favourites.

The band has been causing a stir out east, having won Pop Group of the Year at the Sirius XM Indies last year.

3 RUMOURS & DREAMS

Saturday — Stage West

If you've never had the chance to see Lindsay, Mick, Stevie et al in concert, this might be the next best thing. Rumours & Dreams features the legendary British-American act's biggest hits, as well as other bands from that era, including Heart and Jefferson Airplane. Stagewestcalgary.com

4 DARING DECO

Sunday — Loughheed House

More than 50 items, including dresses, shoes, jewelry, scarves and purses, are on display in this fascinating look back at women's fashion in Alberta during the 1920s. Loughheedhouse.com

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UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION

Premier to work with indigenous leaders

Premier Rachel Notley is pledging a better relationship with aboriginal communities in the province.

In an open letter to her cabinet ministers, Notley said the province would work toward implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

The declaration, signed in 2007, is a statement on the basic rights of aboriginal people and Notley said her government

would live up to it by ensuring the constitutional rights of aboriginal people are protected, that the air, land and water they rely on is protected and that they can build prosperous, self-reliant communities.

Notley acknowledged that resource development in the province will be a major issue, but she said the demands aboriginal communities have aren't different than other Albertans. "They don't want to stop re-

source development, but, like all Albertans, do want to ensure the air, land and water are protected."

She went on to ask all ministers develop plans including "budget implications" of changing ministry programs based on the UN declaration.

Notley said she expects all ministries to submit plans by February next year.

"At its heart, the UN Declaration encourages all of us to

celebrate and preserve indigenous cultures and traditions, and to work alongside indigenous people to ensure they are participating in decisions that concern them," the premier said in a release.

"This was a promise we made during our campaign and the government is committed to reviewing and approving legislation around consultation by working as partners with indigenous leaders." METRO



A bee pollinates flowers in a garden in Chelsea, Que., in this file photo. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Bee ranges shrinking

STUDY

Data suggests climate change plays critical role in trend

Climate change appears to be shrinking the range of bumble bees across the northern hemisphere, depriving the natural environment and agricultural producers of a key pollinator, according to a massive new study.

Researchers from Canada, Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States used 110 years of scientific data to reveal that bumble bees are not migrating north like some other species as the climate warms, but are losing habitat in the south.

"Bumble bee species across Europe and North America are declining at continental scales and our data suggests climate change plays a critical role in this trend," biologist and lead author Jeremy Kerr of the University of Ottawa said at a briefing.

"The rates of loss are very rapid and are nearly the same across continents."

Bees are being crushed in a kind of "climate vice," said Kerr, the university's research chair in macroecology and conservation, quickly losing the ability to survive on the southern edges of their ranges while being slow

to move north.

The study geo-tagged 420,000 observations of 67 species of bumble bees from 1901 to 2010 and combined information with climate data, land-use data and pesticide-use records.

"This is big data," said ecologist Paul Galpern of the University of Calgary, adding the study's authors are making their data and computer code available to researchers around the world.

After establishing a baseline of bumble bee habitat from 1901 to 1974, the study observed significant changes as climate warming caused by human activity became evident.

The findings, published Thursday in the journal *Science*, suggest bumble bees are losing nine kilometres of their southern ranges per year and have

lost about 300 kilometres of range to date — in Europe and North America.

The study found the impact of pesticides such as neonicotinoids, which are known to be harmful to bees, could not account for the sheer breadth of bumble bee population declines.

It also found that bumble bees are migrating to higher, cooler altitudes in mountain ranges including the Rockies, the Pyrenees and the Alps.

"Impacts are large and they are underway," said Kerr. "They are not just something to worry about at some vague future time." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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He's surfing the Bow River wave

RIVER SURFING

Unusual sport is growing on Calgary's own waterways

After getting a taste for surfing in Tofino and Nicaragua, Nick Cunningham said he fell in love with the sport but "still had that itch to scratch," leading him to Calgary's own rivers.

Cunningham, 24, said that since reading online about river surfing, finding a good wave, and getting himself a board, he hasn't been able to stop. He said the best thing about river surfing is the challenge.

"You see people really doing well and they're making it look easy," he said. "When you jump in for yourself and realize it's not easy, it makes you want to master it."

"Then you get up for the first time and you're hooked."

Cunningham said the most popular spot to river surf in the city is under the 10th Street Bridge. He said the spot hosts the only consistently "rideable wave" that he knows about in Calgary.

"No one really knew about it until recently — it's become a lot more popular," he said.

Tony Palmer, owner of Undercurrents in Kananaskis, said his company offers river surfing lessons. He said working with an instructor provides all the benefits of learning from a trained professional.

"Being a good surfer and being a good instructor are two unrelated skills," Palmer said. "You need to find somebody who can break things down — spot and correct errors — or you won't really learn much."

Carol Hankey, public information officer for the Calgary Fire Department, said it's important to keep river safety top of mind and take necessary precautions when on the

“When you jump in for yourself, (you) realize it's not easy ... then you get up for the first time and you're hooked.”

Nick Cunningham

river for any activity.

"We want all river users to engage in their activities safely and make sure they are wearing the proper safety equipment, like life jackets and using the buddy system," she said.

Cunningham added that while most surfers don't wear life jackets because they restrict movement, it is always a smart idea to wear one.

"To err on the side of caution, especially because there are rocks, a life jacket is definitely best practice," he said.

LUCIE EDWARDSON/FOR METRO



Nick Cunningham at the 10th Street bridge. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

IN BRIEF

Police warn restaurateurs about utility scammers

Calgary police are warning about a utility scam targeting mainly small restaurants in the city.

So far this year, police have received reports of 130 attempts to solicit funds through this scam, and 11 victims reported losing money.

The phone scammers pose as ENMAX employees and tell victims they have an overdue electrical or other types of bills that they must pay immediately in order to avoid having their utilities cut off. Victims are instructed to purchase prepaid debit or credit cards and relay the card details over the phone.

In some cases, the perpetrators have also left voicemail messages, asking victims to call back at a 1-888 number, where they then hear a recorded copy of ENMAX's actual opening message to customers. If victims stay on the line, the call is routed to the scammers' phones. Police request that victims contact them at 403-266-1234. METRO

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Alberta NDP cabinet greenlights debt

TREASURY BOARD

\$6B in funding for capital projects gets thumbs up



Ryan Tumilty
Metro|Edmonton

The provincial cabinet gave its OK Wednesday for Alberta to assume \$6 billion more in debt for capital projects.

Gerald Kastendieck, a spokesman for the Treasury Board, said the government has committed to many capital projects, like schools and ring roads, and this funding will permit that work to be completed.

"This allows the govern-

ment to go forward and get those things done," he said.

He stressed the decision doesn't mean the government will borrow for all these projects, just that it could. "It's an up to amount they're allowed to go out to the market for up to \$6 billion."

Wildrose finance critic said the government needs to be more transparent about exactly where the money is

going and get a handle on debt.

There's no clear fiscal picture on what this borrowing is for, or what the province plans to be spending it on," he said. "Unless we get control of our spending, interest payments will continue to grow and soak up more revenues away from core government services, sticking future Albertans with the tab."



Alberta Premier Rachel Notley. CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

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ELECTRICITY

Power record set during heat wave

Albertans sweltering in 30 C heat have broken a record for amount of electricity used during the summer.

The Alberta Electric System Operator says 10,441 megawatts of power was used between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. local time Thursday.

The operator says it's confident the system can handle the high demand.

It says more than 1,700 MW of supply has been added to the system since the start of 2014, including nearly 350 MW of wind and more than 1,000 MW of gas-fired generation.

There has been a 0.3 per cent growth in demand for power year-over-year in Alberta.

Summer peak demand was previously set at 10,419 MW on July 30, 2014.

As of Thursday afternoon the thermometer had reached 32 C in Edmonton and 30 C in Calgary, and the forecast for the next few days is more of the same. No rain is forecast until next week.

"Reliability is always a priority for us to ensure Albertans have

the electricity they need to run their homes and businesses," Miranda Keating Erickson, vice-president of operations with the AESO, said in a news release.

"Because of the substantial new generation that has come online over the last year, we are confident we have enough supply to get us through the season of typically higher demand."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ BACKGROUND

Heat advisory

Due to 30 C and higher temperatures, Alberta Health Services has issued a heat advisory for the whole Calgary zone.

Effective immediately, residents of and visitors are advised to take precautions to protect themselves, their families and their

neighbours from the potentially harmful effects of the sun, including burns, heat-related exhaustion and heat stroke.

30 C

Thursday the temperature reached 30 C in Calgary, and the forecast for the next few days is more of the same.

IN BRIEF

Teen facing sex-related charges makes first appearance in court

A 17-year-old youth facing nine sexual assault charges related to boys and girls in central Alberta has made his first court appearance.

The charges go back as far as 2011 and involve five alleged victims, including some who were on trips with Scouts Canada and Cadets Canada.

The charges reference the Red Deer, Red Deer County, Sylvan Lake and Edmonton areas.

They include sexual as-

sault with a weapon, sexual assault, sexual interference and doing an indecent act.

An investigation started in May when one of the victims came forward.

The teen is not in custody and is to be back in court on Aug. 6.

The accused and those said to be involved cannot be identified.

Police have said the suspect is from Red Deer and was involved with the Scouts between 2007 and 2012 and with Cadets Canada between 2011 and 2015. THE CANADIAN PRESS

INSIDE: Stampede love • Freestyle dunking • Pony roundup tyke • Hangover cures • Spectacular circus



METRO SPECIAL REPORT

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CALGARY STAMPEDE 2015

Dustin Shaver of Crooked Creek, Alta., on Xplicit Pride at the Novice Bareback event on Day 7 of the Calgary Stampede rodeo. Cowboys vie for the big prizes in Sunday's finals. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO




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True love at the Stampede?

ROMANCE

Married couple met on the grounds five years ago

Candice Ward
For Metro | Calgary

The Stampede has always been a place for the single – and sometimes the not-so single, to seek out love.

Similar to a 10-day version of Halloween where everyone at the party has dressed up like a cowboy, people flock to places like Nashville North, Cowboys and Ranchman's, in hopes of finding their soul mates, even if it is just for one night.

But for some, real connections are actually formed and futures have been made thanks to the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth.

For Deborah Bristow, the first Saturday of Stampede in 2010 at Ranchman's was the night she met her future husband, Gordon.

"I wasn't going to go out that night cause I was hung-over from partying the night before," said Deborah.

"It was my girlfriend's stagette and she convinced me to come and that once I had a drink or two I'd feel better."

Once there, the group of 10 women ended up sitting down at a table of three men, which included Gordon — who had no plans of actually ending up there that night, but he quickly won Deborah over



Deborah and Gordon found true love at the Calgary Stampede. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

with his humour.

"It wasn't until we danced together the first time that our eyes really connected and we kissed on the dance floor and I looked into her eyes and I knew I was going to marry her," said Gordon.

Deborah wasn't sold on that idea so soon.

"Then we went back to our table with the ladies and during a conversation he laughed, looked at me and said, 'You don't know it yet, but I'm going to marry you,'" said Deborah.

"I laughed and thought, 'OK he's drunk.'"

But that's exactly what happened on May 19, 2012.

Both believe there's hope for other people looking for love and a relationship during Stampede and know many other people who've found each other and are still together.

"It's a great time to meet people and for me I really wasn't looking for a relationship," said Deborah.

"I was just having a good conversation with a funny, cute guy."

In the age of Tinder and fleeting relationships, the good old fashioned bar pick up is still a viable option for love.

REACTION

We asked: Love at the Calgary Stampede?



“

Yes, it is very rare.
Jodie Fraser, 28

“

Yes, bring on the cowboys.
Ashlee Marie, 28



“

Probably. It's a great place to meet people.
Mackenzie Munro, 20



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Acrodunk puts a bit of gymnastics into basketball. CONTRIBUTED

For a good time, this is a slam dunk

ACRODUNK

High-flying spectacle takes basketball to new heights

Krista Sylvester
For Metro | Calgary

They've been described as high-flying, acrobatic and simply just "awesome," but these guys say it's all just part of their day.

Acrodunk founder Jerry Burrell is one of a team of five freestyle dunkers down at the Stampede twice daily who are putting on a gravity-defying show full of twists, turns, flips and of course, dunks.

"We're just out here having fun on the trampoline and then we do some flips, and twists and some pretty amazing stuff that keeps the kids smiling," Burrell said. "And being able to put a smile on the kids' faces is one of the best feelings."

Since Acrodunk was fea-

tured on America's Got Talent in Season 1, they've been amassing fans around the world but they have actually been around for 20 years.

"This is actually our 20th anniversary and guys have come and gone and some have even gone on to the NBA as team mascots because teams like to entertain audiences with slam dunking, so it's pretty cool to see."

Besides their two regular shows in front of the BMO Centre daily, the Acrodunk team is part of the Grandstand Show each night and have been wowing thousands of audiences.

Self-professed basketball fanatic Jared Boedker, 15, has watched the group perform their stunts three times already.

"I love this kind of stuff. It's just really cool to see what kind of stuff they can do with just a trampoline, a basketball and a net. I wish I could do some of this stuff," he said.

Acrodunk performs daily at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. plus as part of the Grandstand show at the end of the night.

FOOD & DRINK

The beef in these parts is AAA delicious



Alberta is known for having the best beef out there and this is the best beef you can buy.

Executive chef Derek Dale

that," Dale said.

"Alberta is known for having the best beef out there and this is the best beef you can buy. Our producers and suppliers are second-to-none and they are passionate about the products they sell."

In fact, the Alberta beef on the Stampede grounds is so popular that by the end of the 10-day event, over 60,000 pounds will have been consumed.

"That's a lot of meat, that's about 20,000 steaks and count-

less burgers and wieners and beef on a bun. They love it all and it's definitely one of our best sellers," he added.

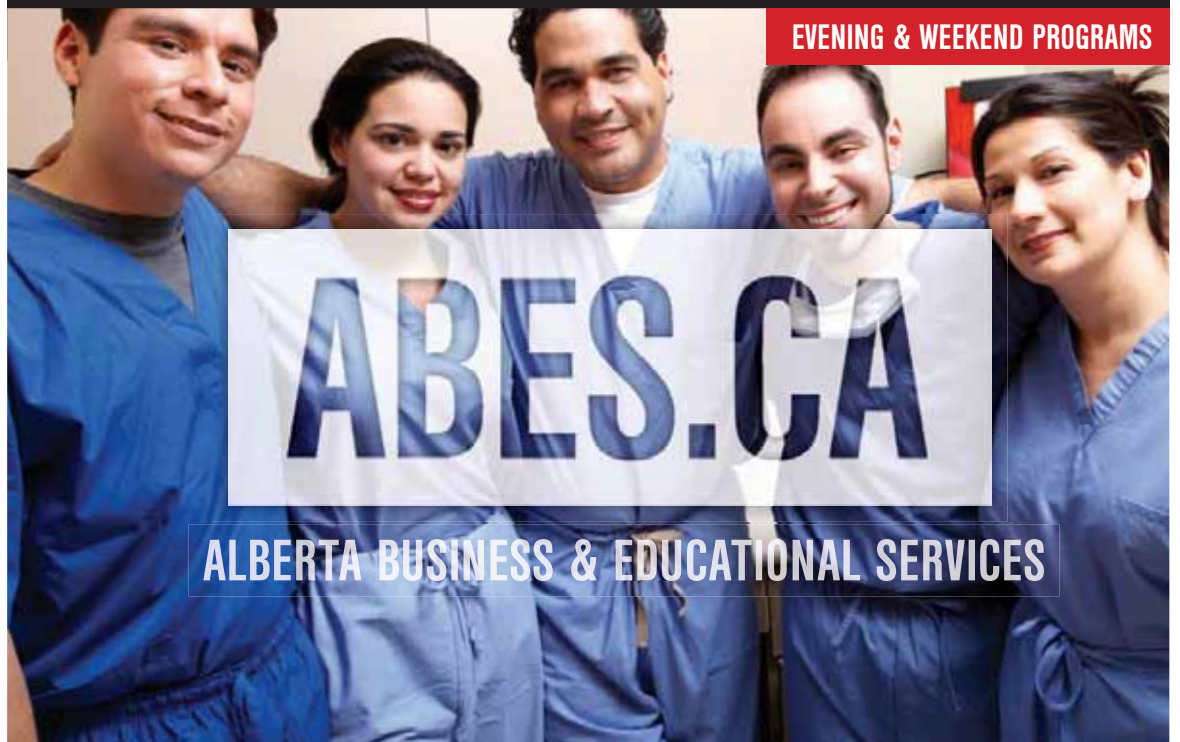
Almost all of it served by the Stampede is AAA Alberta beef, though there is some certified Angus beef served as well. Alberta's AAA beef can be found at Mavericks in the Big 4 as well as select other areas in the grounds including some concessions and catering.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

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Kennedi MacMillan spends her Stampede days corraling ponies. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Six-year-old is ponying up

PICK UP QUICK

Kennedi rides Strawberry the horse, rounds up the ponies

Krista Sylvester
For Metro | Calgary

She may only be six-years-old but this Stampede Pick Up Chick is already stealing the show.

It's the first year Kennedy MacMillan has been the Calgary Stampede rodeo Pick Up Chick — the person who gathers the ponies after the wild pony race — but she's a natural, according to Mel Lawes, who runs the Calgary Stampede Pony Race.

"People love it, they cheer for her to round up those ponies and she's just so adorable

you can't lose. It's the perfect end to the show. It just took me a couple days to get her to wave at the crowd and by yesterday she was throwing kisses at them and they're loving it."

Lawes says the big crowd can be intimidating, but Kennedy is getting a little less shy each day.

"This is her first time rounding up ponies at the Calgary Stampede but we got her on Strawberry the horse about a year ago and she's been learning a lot ever since."

Kennedi was a shy interview but says she loves being out on Strawberry the horse and enjoys making audiences happy.

"I round up all of the ponies ... it's not that hard. It's fun, I'm focused on my job," the six-year-old said.

Her father Cory MacMillan says Kennedy is making her parents proud and he hopes her four-year-old sister Jilayna will hopefully follow

in her footsteps.

"Their brothers have been pony racing for four years now and the girls have always liked it and fell into it," he said, adding Kennedy will likely grow up to pony race or maybe even barrel race.



She's a natural and I am sure one day she will grow up to be a barrel racer.

Cory MacMillan,
Kennedi's father

"The first day she was pretty scared but after that she had it figured out. It's pretty special ... I just don't want her to fall off."

Kennedi has just a few more days left of being the Rodeo Pick Up Chick, but you can catch her at the end of the rodeo each day.

COKE STAGE ON FRIDAY

Thomas & Friends

Star of Thomas & Friends, is one of the most beloved children's characters. 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Terry Stokes

A long time Stampede favourite, popular hypnotist Terry Stokes started on the stage in 1970 and has been a mainstay ever since. The best part is getting hypnotized yourself. 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Beat Drop

Beat Drop is Canada's premiere music production and DJing school, hailing from Calgary and featuring the 2014 Canadian Redbull Thre3style champion & Beat Drop's head DJ instructor, DJ C-Sik. 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

July Talk

July Talk has gained a reputation as one of the most exciting live acts in Canada. The quintet just finished their first European tour and recently celebrated a 2015 Juno award for Best Alternative Album. 9 p.m. KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

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What are your Calgary Stampede cures?

COMMUNITY

The Stampede grounds can be the land of guilty pleasures

Candice Ward
For Metro | Calgary

While each person has their own individual reason for heading down to the Stampede each year, each person also has their own remedy for battling some of the after-effects of their fix.

It may be the tempting tastes on the midway, the twists and turns of the thrilling rides, the lure of opening your wallet for the sake of spending your hard-earned cash, the sweet taste of alcohol, or finally, just trying to do it all at the grounds.

Metro readers offer up some of their own ways to cure any negative effects you may be left with after or during your day at the grounds.



CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

FOOD

How do you cure overdoing it on food?

"Self control."
— **Juliette Dyksta, 40**

"Tums and eat healthy the next day."
— **Mark Clancy, 14**

"Space it out and share food, as well as drink a lot of water."
— **Tracey Clancy, 48**



CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

RIDES

How do you cure overdoing the rides?

"Lots of water and walk under the mister."
— **Jolene Steenson, 19**

"Eating if I feel sick."
— **Alexa Pasveer, 17**

"Find shade."
— **Karl Gungert, 19**



CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

MONEY

How do you cure spending too much money?

"Only bring so much cash with me to the grounds."
— **Steffi Nguyen, 21**

"Leave all of your cards at home."
— **Tyson Tran, 20**

"I don't try to care, but maybe leave your cards at home."
— **Nelson Tobin, 31**



CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

BOOZE

How do you cure overdoing it on booze?

"I just don't overdo it."
— **Jarod Goritschig, 18**

"Go home and sleep it off."
— **Jovi Dhas, 18**

"Sleep and making sure I don't work the next day."
— **Ian Johnston, 18**



CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

EXHAUSTION

How do you cure Stampede exhaustion?

"A couple good sleep-ins, spending time with friends and family and enjoying the rest of the summer."
— **Jennifer Booth**

"I am seven months pregnant, so everything in moderation."
— **Nicole Henson, 33**

"Afternoon naps are a must."
— **Jeralyn Wells, 34**



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Anita Bucsis leads a team of hardworking volunteers at the Calgary Stampede. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

‘Because we love Calgary’

HOSPITALITY

Meet the Stampede’s unsung heroes

Krista Sylvester
For Metro | Calgary

She’s been volunteering for 18 years at the Calgary Stampede and she hasn’t missed a day yet.

Anita Bucsis has led a team of volunteers as the head volunteer Agriculture Ambassador for almost two decades and she says he has loved every single moment.

“We do this because we love Calgary. I’m a native Calgarian and we love the Stampede, so I haven’t missed one my entire life. We love to show Western hospitality and meet new people from around the world,” she explained.

Bucsis and her team of 70 volunteer Agriculture Ambassadors are stationed just outside of the Agrium and they don’t only answer questions

and point people in the right direction but they give tours, as well.

“It can be a lot of work and very tiresome. After the Stampede, you definitely need your rest and relaxation. But it’s so much fun to help and meet new people every day.”

Many of the volunteers work two shifts per day during the Stampede for almost six hours total but they also are responsible for setting up the agriculture area three days before Stampede as well as the take-down afterwards.

“Nobody complains, it’s just wonderful meeting everybody and showing Western hospitality is what we’re here for.”

Bucsis was also responsible for creating the popular help signs stating, “I speak Calgarian,” “I speak American,” or “I speak Mandarin,” just to name a few.

“I was worried if people would be offended, but the signs have really caught on and it’s just a fun way to offer help to people,” she added.

+ BACKGROUND

- About 1,000 people a day seek help from the ambassadors
- One year, 28 different languages were spoken by the ambassadors

DONATION

Unwanted prizes a boon for toy program

One person’s trash is another person’s treasure.

And more specifically at the Calgary Stampede, that treasure is usually left behind as stuffed animals and prizes won at the grounds, according to Midway Operator James Radke, who says that’s why the Calgary Stampede Toy Donation program is so important.

“A lot of people just like the thrill of the win or playing the game and just the competi-

tion element, but then at the end of the day they might not want to carry it home, or they don’t have kids or just don’t have room for it,” he explained.

“That’s why we have this program and after the Stampede is done we donate all of the leftover toys that were left behind and it really makes a lot of people happy.”

If Midway gamers want to donate, they can find the white donation bins at each of the

“It’s like Christmas for a lot of the kids who get these things later this summer.”

James Radke

three major exits (the North gate, the South gate and the

BMO gate) and drop in the stuffed animals and toys they don’t want.

A lot of the toys end up going to local children through local groups and some even end up overseas through humanitarian groups that partner with the Calgary Stampede program.

The Stampede usually collects about 5,000 stuffed animals a year and this is the seventh year it’s been running.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

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The free Cirque Eloize runs three times daily in the Enmax Corral. COURTESY CALGARY STAMPEDE

Stampede corrals Montreal circus

CIRQUE ELOIZE

Show blends urban arts against a city background

If you missed Cirque du Soleil earlier this year, don't fret: The Calgary Stampede Enmax Corral Show Cirque Eloize is wow-ing audiences with its original Stampede production.

And you still have a chance to catch it.

Directed by Jeannot Painchaud, Cirque Eloize is a beautiful stage show hailing from Montreal. It blends circus arts with dance and music — all over the background of a city scene.

Stage manager Natasha Drouin Beaugard said the show combines different kinds of art, including the circus, urban dances, video projection and rock and electronic music.

"It's a captivating show

that features breakdancing, acrobats, contortionists, juggling and a trampoline wall. It focuses on all of the kinds of meetings and cultures you can have in the city," she said.

The world-renowned troupe created the original Stampede edition from its critically-acclaimed touring production specifically for Stampede audiences. They're celebrating the fact the stands are full for each show.

"The reception has been amazing, especially to have over 3,000 or 4,000 people at each show for 33 shows over 10 days," Drouin Beaugard said.

The unique production has been performing to a packed Corral three times daily at the Stampede. The show is free with admission.

And the shows are nothing short of spectacular with the artists bending their bodies in ways many can't even dream of.

"It takes a lot of physical

“

It's a captivating show that features breakdancing, acrobats, contortionists, juggling and a trampoline wall.

Natasha Drouin Beaugard, Cirque Eloize stage manager

strength and conditioning, mental focus and of course, practice," Drouin Beaugard said.

There are 13 artists and five crew members working on the 45-minute show and a lot of time and effort go into each one, before, during and after, she added.

Visitors still have a few more chances to attend this spectacular show in the Enmax Corral daily at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

Thursday, July 16th

Become a gluten free on the go know-it-all.

Registered Nutritionist, Kristyn Hall, will talk about the most nutrient-rich gluten free foods you can eat on the go. It's one event you can't miss.



Gluten Free On The Go will be held on July 16th from 7:00 pm until 8:30 at our 10th Avenue Market. To register, visit communitynaturalfoods.com/gluten-free-on-the-go



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VILLAGE HONDA

One last chance: Must see, must do

RUSH SEATING

Catch rodeo, races before they ride off into the sunset

Krista Sylvester
For Metro

If you haven't been down to the Stampede yet or you're going for the final time of the year this weekend, there are definitely some things you won't want to miss.

First, going into the final weekend the top of anybody's "to do" list must be the rodeo and the chuckwagon races. If you don't have tickets already, they can still be purchased. Rush Seating is always a good value option but you have to get down to the grounds early to make sure you don't miss those, according to Stampede



Cowboys will be running towards this weekend's big Stampede payday — you might want to check it out. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

spokeswoman Jennifer Booth. "Everybody loves the rodeo and the chuckwagons and the final weekend that's the place to be to catch the finals,"

she said.

"They will definitely want to catch the TransAlta Grandstand Show. It's a tribute to Canadian artists, musicians

and inventors. The incredible spectacular even includes an official Canadian citizenship ceremony.

The evening finishes off with an incredible fireworks display they won't want to miss — especially Sunday."

But there's more to the Stampede than what happens at the Grandstand and the price of admission gets you in to almost everything at no extra costs, she added.

"There is so much you can do this weekend; Adrenaline Ranch, The Enmax Corral Show, the President's Choice Superdogs are everybody's favourites and there's tons to see on the Coca-Cola Stage and in Nashville North. There's something for everyone," Booth said.

Check out calgarystampede.com to plan out your weekend to make sure you get the most out of the final weekend, because after that it won't be back for another 365 days.

NEW HISTORICAL SITE FOR 2016

Indian Village to move after 45 years

This weekend is your last chance to visit the Calgary Stampede Indian Village in its current location — but don't worry, it's going to be bigger and better next year in its new location.

The current location at the south side of the parking of the park near 26 Avenue SE has been home to Indian Village since 1970 and next year is set to move to its new home, the Enmax Park venue behind

the Scotiabank Saddledome.

The new site carries a historical significance as it was an encampment when Fort Calgary was up and operating. The new Village will be two and a half times bigger than the existing location, which will allow for traditional circles to be properly conducted.

The new location is expected to be completed by the fall and ready for the 2016 Stampede.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

STAMPEDE MASCOT

Wild about Harry

He was born from a sketch out of convenience, but blossomed into one of the most beloved mascots Calgary has ever produced.

Calgary Stampede mascot Harry the Horse is celebrating his 30th birthday this year as the official face, ahem, head, of the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth.

Stampede historian Christine Leppard says the original Stampede mascot was Jim Dandy and Nellie (an old timer riding his mare) but they weren't exactly mobile.

"That mascot was large and awkward and as the story goes, Jim and Nellie were at a Stampede event and turned around and knocked over a bunch of glasses so the decision was made to create a more maneuverable mascot," she said.

That's when Harry the Horse was born and the rest as they say, is history.

"He's quite the world traveler and very popular everywhere he goes."

Happy Birthday, Harry.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

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Canadian Forces troops fight a new enemy: Fire

SASKATCHEWAN
200 soldiers endure smoke, ash, 30 C heat to save homes

"Watch out for the widowers!"
 The platoon commander shouts the warning to about 200 soldiers slogging their way through dense brush, blackened trees and smouldering ash in the tiny First Nations community of Montreal Lake, about 250 kilometres north of Saskatoon.

A widowmaker is any large branch or treetop no longer attached to a trunk, but still tangled overhead, that could fall at any time.

"Obviously there's the danger of the ash pits and the big concern right now is the burned-out trees — any widow-makers," says Master Cpl. Casey Zaharoff. "And obviously a flare-up."

Zaharoff is one of the hundreds of Canadian Forces personnel who have traded their camouflage duds for bright orange fire-fighting jumpsuits to help beat back the flames in an unprecedented forest fire season. For soldiers in northern Saskatchewan, orange is the new green.

A handful of homes and cabins in the area have already been destroyed by fires. The army was called in this week



Military personnel set out to fight fires in La Ronge, Sask., Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CONTRIBUTED

to help save the rest and get 10,000 people who have fled the smoke and flames back home.

The help is sorely needed. Crews were holding protective lines around threatened communities Thursday, but Steve Roberts with Saskatchewan Wildfire Management said warm, dry conditions and shifting winds could cause more trouble spots.

The narrow dirt road into Montreal Lake is flanked by

“It's tough to see the homes destroyed and the damage the fire is causing and it's great we're doing something to help put them out.”
 Afghanistan veteran Cpl. Donny Melsted

burned trees, many of them still smoking.

The community is deserted. Several stray dogs follow the soldiers.

It's dry, smoky, hot work.

or to hot spots on the ground. There is nothing high-tech in what they are doing: Their main tools are shovels, axes and handheld water sprayers fed by plastic bladders on their backs.

It's challenging, says commanding officer Lt.-Col. Mason Stalker.

"Certainly fatigue and, of course, the heat are some of the threats that our soldiers deal with," he said. "Of course they're wearing protective equipment, goggles, hard hats, coveralls and gloves."

Stalker said there are about 200 soldiers in Montreal Lake and another group about the same size in La Ronge, the largest community under threat. He expects another 60 reservists from Saskatchewan will join the fight on the weekend.

Roberts said the province is looking for more firefighters and equipment from across the country and the United States. It is also working to train hundreds of additional people to join the battle in the next few weeks.

Cpl. Donny Melsted, who served in Afghanistan in 2009, is happy to be of service.

"It's great to be able to help the people of Saskatchewan in their time of need," he said.

"It's tough to see the homes destroyed and the damage the fire is causing and it's great we're doing something to help put them out."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smoke covers the West

Large wildfires raging across Canada have contributed to a smoky haze lingering above the Western U.S., causing spectacular red sunsets in places including Seattle and prompting air quality warnings in Vancouver, and many states.

Parts of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan are ablaze. In Saskatchewan, more than 10,000 people have been forced from their homes, and the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre said more help from the U.S. and abroad could be necessary. Alberta said Wednesday it was bringing in 62 firefighters from Mexico to help battle 92 wildfires, including 33 listed as out of control.

British Columbia, with more than 180 fires, was bringing in crews from Australia.

Haze that lingered over parts of eastern Colorado for three days was dissipating Thursday. The smoky conditions had prompted a health warning for the Denver area, which was beset by gloomy skies that blocked mountain views.

The tiny particles of wildfire debris in the air pose a health risk for people with lung disease, older adults and children and anyone who exerts themselves outdoors, said Christopher Dann of Colorado's air pollution control division.

Air quality advisories have also been issued in North and South Dakota.

Environment Canada continued to issue special air quality advisories for parts of B.C., Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northwest Ontario.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fur farmers furious as vandals release mink

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT
Owner faced with task of rounding up 6,800 critters

Fur farmers in southwestern Ontario are rattled after more than 8,000 mink were released during two recent break-ins.

Police said about 6,800 mink were let out of four sheds at RBR Fur Farms Inc. near the Town of St. Marys after a perimeter fence was cut open overnight Tuesday.

Rancher Kirk Rankin said other farmers from the seven facilities in Perth County that rear the small carnivores for

their glossy fur are "wound up" because it is the second break-in since late May.

Rankin said many mink were recovered on Wednesday and Thursday, including several dead ones, but he won't know the numbers until he gets the animals back into pens.

"My family has been raising these mink for almost 80 years. We like the animal," he said.

"But these other people, if they don't like fur coats, that's fine, they don't have to buy a fur coat, they don't have to wear any fur, but they sure as hell don't have the right to come into our property and do the damage that they did."

The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for an

earlier incident at the neighbouring Glenwood Fur Farm that involved the release of about 1,600 mink.

Gary Hazlewood, the executive director of Canada Mink Breeders, said it's the first time he's seen two break-ins within the same year, let alone two in the same area. In early June, Hazlewood's organization offered a \$75,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the people responsible. He said the break-ins are both costly and harmful to the animals.

"I still find it strange that people who think that they are helping animals actually put them at greater risk and don't seem to care about that," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canadians hit few targets in Syria as bombing against ISIL continues

The Canadian military reported 18 new air strikes against targets belonging to ISIL, but none in the latest round involve missions over Syria.

In the three months since Parliament granted an expansion of the air campaign only three attacks have been conducted against what the Harper government sometimes described as the heart of the extremist movement.

The U.S.-led coalition has stepped up both the level of bombing and the public relations campaign since ISIL dealt a surprise blow to the Iraqi government and seized control of the strategically important Ramadi.

Canadian Navy Capt. Paul Forget says it's clear the tempo of CF-18 missions has increased along with its allies, but he offered no explanation for the dearth of Syrian missions.

He did say the Canadian air taskforce takes its target lists from the coalition headquarters in Qatar.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GDPs fine with less CO₂: Al Gore

CLIMATE CHANGE

Calderon, Gore say going green can bring the green, too

Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore and former Mexican president Felipe Calderon say fighting climate change will be a boon to the global economy, despite critics' fears that abandoning fossil fuels will cripple world markets.

On the final day of the Climate Summit of the Americas in Toronto, both tried to dispel the notion that society must choose between economic growth and helping the environment.

"We're seeing in some of the states and provinces reductions in (carbon dioxide) emissions accompanied by economic growth surging," Gore told a crowd of invitation-only delegates.

"Places like B.C., California, Quebec and Ontario."

Calderon, now chair of the



Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore speaks at the Climate Summit of the Americas. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, echoed Gore's thoughts, saying his organization's research shows economies can grow while reducing greenhouse gas output.

"Sweden increased more than 50 per cent its economic growth and reduced almost 25 per cent its carbon emissions related to 1990," he said. "For the first time in 40 years at the global level,

the GDP of the world increased almost 3 per cent and the emissions didn't grow — in other words we started to decarbonize the economic growth."

Calderon said societies need to fundamentally change their systems, from getting away from fossil fuels, to ending deforestation, to building better cities and retrofitting aging infrastructure. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HAMILTON, ONT.

Dog attack did not cause man's death

Neighbours heard piercing screams and loud barks as a man was attacked by a dog before he died on a residential street Wednesday night, but an autopsy has revealed the canine assault isn't what killed him.

What was responsible for the unidentified man's death remained a mystery Thursday, with shaken area residents trying to piece together what happened.

Police emphasized, however, that the animal had attacked. "There was absolutely a dog attack, absolutely. We're confirming that. We're also confirming that that was not the cause of death," Hamilton police spokeswoman Catherine Martin said.

The man was out walking the dog with another man just after 11 p.m. when the incident took place.

A passerby with a baseball bat tried to fend off the animal, and police responding to a flurry of neighbours' 911 calls found the man on the ground. Officers used pepper spray to deter the dog before it

was eventually captured with the help of an animal control unit, police said.

Afterwards an autopsy determined the dog attack was not what caused the man's death.

"There's no credible evidence that a dog attack was material in the death process here," said Dr. Jack Stanborough, regional supervising coroner for the Hamilton region.

"My understanding is there was a dog attack. Now whether that was before the death or after the death or during the process I can't tell you ... but I don't see a significant role for the dog attack causing the death."

The man did appear to be injured in the attack, he added, but those injuries were "not material" in his death.

Figuring out just what killed the man will likely take months, Stanborough said, as further testing has to be conducted.

The dog has been identified as a sharpei-fila mix and is now being held by Hamilton's Animal Services department.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rebel flag to come down

SOUTH CAROLINA

Governor passes new law three weeks after massacre

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signed a bill into law Thursday that will bring down the Confederate flag outside the Statehouse, a move that seemed unthinkable only a month ago in this Deep South state that was the first to secede from the Union.

The law requires the battle flag to be gone within 24 hours; her staff said it would be removed during a ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday and relegated to the state's Confederate Relic Room.

"The Confederate flag is coming off the grounds of the South Carolina Statehouse," Haley said. "We will bring it down with dignity and we will make sure it is stored in its rightful place."

The flag first flew over the Statehouse dome in 1961 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Civil War and was kept there as a symbol of official opposition to the civil rights movement. Mass protests decades later led



Maria Calef, of Columbia, S.C., waves a sign as she celebrates in front of the South Carolina statehouse on Thursday. More than 50 years after a Confederate flag was raised at its Statehouse, the rebel banner is scheduled to be removed Friday. JOHN BAZEMORE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to a compromise in 2000 with lawmakers who insisted that the flag symbolized Southern heritage and state's rights.

They agreed then to move it to a 30-foot pole next to a Con-

federate monument out front. But even from that lower perch, the historic but divisive symbol remained clearly visible in the centre of town, and flag supporters remained a powerful bloc in

the state.

The massacre three weeks ago of nine people inside their historic black church in Charleston suddenly changed this dynamic, not only in South Carolina but

around the nation.

Police said the shootings inside the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church were racially motivated, and by posing with the Confederate flag before the shootings, suspect Dylann Storm Roof, who has not yet entered a plea to nine counts of murder, ignited a debate over the flag's history as a symbol of white superiority and racial oppression.

Haley moved first, calling on South Carolina lawmakers to vote the flag down, and very quickly thereafter, other Republican lawmakers who have long cultivated the votes of Confederate flag supporters were announcing that other Civil War symbols no longer deserve places of honour.

"These nine pens are going to the families of the Emanuel Nine," Haley said after signing the bill into law. "Nine amazing individuals who have forever changed South Carolina history."

South Carolina's flag removal bill passed easily in the Senate, where state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, the pastor gunned down at the church, had served, but was stalled by debate in the House as dozens of amendments were proposed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AVIATION

Pilot wrong to flush bullets, says United

A United Airlines captain threw bullets in a trash bin accessible to passengers and later flushed them down a toilet on board a flight that he was piloting to Germany.

A United spokeswoman said Thursday that the pilot should not have thrown the bullets in the toilet. She said the pilot hasn't been fired but that the incident is still under investigation.

Airline spokeswoman Karen May said the pilot is allowed to carry a gun on domestic flights under a post-9-11 federal program intended to make planes harder to hijack. She said the pilot dumped the bullets in a waste bin then in a toilet after realizing he had them in his bag on a June 23 flight from Houston to Munich. Germany has strict gun laws.

"He did incorrectly dispose of the ammunition," May said, "but it is likely that the pilot is not going to face any criminal charges."

The Transportation Security Administration and Federal Aviation Administration did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

United declined to name the pilot. He is likely to be very experienced — it takes many years



He did incorrectly dispose of the ammunition.

Spokeswoman Karen May

of seniority for pilots to become captains on international flights for major U.S. airlines.

May said the pilot was still employed by United, but she declined to say whether he had been grounded.

"We are investigating," she said. "I can't give any details about his status other than he is still with us."

The incident was first reported by The Aviation Herald, which said that a flight attendant looking for a passenger's missing ring found 10 bullets in a waste bin and alerted the captain. He flushed the bullets down the toilet and alerted German authorities when he realized that the flight attendant would report the incident, according to the Herald.

After landing in Munich, the plane taxied to a remote area where passengers got off and the waste tanks were emptied to find the bullets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



BRITAIN A ROYAL CHRISTENING Prince William and his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, marked a milestone for their newborn baby Princess Charlotte on Sunday — a christening ceremony on Queen Elizabeth II's country estate that was steeped in royal tradition. Hundreds of fans outside St. Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham, a sprawling royal estate near England's eastern coast, cheered as William and Kate arrived with toddler Prince George and nine-week-old Charlotte, who was in a vintage pram.

MARIO TESTINO/KENSINGTON PALACE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFORM

Greece meets deadline

Greece finally met a deadline that counted on Thursday and made a series of sweeping proposals that its creditors needed by midnight to set off a mad rush toward a weekend deal to stave off a financial collapse of the nation.

The package met long-standing demands by creditors to impose wide-ranging sales-tax hikes and cuts in state spending for pensions that the left-leaning Greek government had long resisted.

It raised hopes that Greece can get the rescue deal that will prevent a catastrophic exit from the euro after key creditors said they were open to discussing how to ease the country's debt load, a long-time sticking point in their talks.

The government conceded to demands it had previously refused to accept — mostly on moving various categories of goods and services to higher sales tax rates.

After months of foot-dragging despite impending chaos, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras met a midnight deadline with more than an hour to spare.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Funeral set for girl killed by leaping sturgeon

Funeral plans are set for a five-year-old Florida girl who died after being struck by a sturgeon that leaped into the boat she was riding in with her family.

Jaylon Leighann Rippey died last Friday, hours after the sturgeon jumped into the family's boat. Officials say the girl's mother suffered facial injuries and her nine-year-old brother suffered a broken wrist.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission says this was the first fatality recorded from a sturgeon strike on the Suwannee River in northern Florida.

The fish are known for leaping more than seven feet above the water. They can grow up to eight feet long and weigh up to 200 pounds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Burglary suspect chased by authorities — and a bull

A bull decided to horn in on the action as authorities chased a suspect in northern Alabama. Sheriff's officials in Marshall County say the burglary suspect was taken into custody after being chased by a bull through a cow pasture.

Marshall County Sheriff Scott Walls says 26-year-old Brad Lynn Hemby was being sought in connection with a burglary Wednesday morning in Arab.

Walls says Hemby tried fleeing deputies by running through a cow pasture and a bull roaming the land joined the chase. Walls says Hemby eventually fell onto a barbed wire fence and surrendered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vet finds underwear inside dog during surgery

A U.S. Labrador has some unusual taste buds.

A Pennsylvania veterinarian retrieved 62 hair bands and eight pairs of underwear from the dog's stomach during exploratory surgery.

The head technician at Good Shepherd's Veterinary Hospital told a local TV station that the black Lab named Tiki wasn't responding to medicine for vomiting, diarrhea and a loss of appetite. X-rays showed a mass in its stomach. Last week's surgery lasted two hours.

The dog's owner, Sara Weiss, says Tiki once swallowed a plastic foam dart, but that passed through the dog's system naturally.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pope Francis is presented with a gift of a crucifix carved into a wooden hammer and sickle, the Communist symbol uniting labour and peasants, by Bolivian President Evo Morales in La Paz, Bolivia, Wednesday. L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO/POOL PHOTO VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bolivian gift to Pope causes rift

SOUTH AMERICA

Crucifix designed by Jesuit activist killed in 1980

Bolivian President Evo Morales' controversial gift of a "Communist crucifix" to Pope Francis threatened to overshadow the pope's visit to Bolivia on Thursday, with the Vatican and Bolivia both insisting that no offence was intended or taken.

Morales gave Francis the crucifix carved into a hammer and sickle upon Francis' arrival in Bolivia Wednesday, immediately raising eyebrows given Morales' past attacks on the church and his socialist bent.

It turns out, the crucifix was originally designed by a Jesuit activist, the Rev. Luis Espinal, who was assassinated in 1980 by suspected paramilitaries dur-

+ 'POPE OF THE POOR'

The Bolivian government insisted the gift wasn't a political manoeuvre of any sort, but was a symbol that Morales thought the "pope of the poor" would appreciate. "That was the intention of this gift, and it was

not any sort of manoeuvre ... It was really from great affection, a work designed by the very hands of Luis Espinal," Communications Minister Marianela Paco told the Patria Nueva radio station.

ing the months that preceded a military coup. Francis, a fellow Jesuit, stopped his motorcade to pray at the site where Espinal's body had been dumped.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said Thursday the pope had no idea that Espinal had designed the crucifix and was surprised to receive it — a reaction clearly visible in the footage of the encounter. Some reports suggested the pope told Morales "This isn't good," one of Francis' friends sent a tweet quoting him as saying

such. But Lombardi said it wasn't known what the pope had said.

Lombardi said Espinal had designed the crucifix as a symbol of dialogue and commitment to freedom and progress for Bolivia, not with any specific ideology in mind. Lombardi said he personally wasn't offended by it.

"You can dispute the significance and use of the symbol now, but the origin is from Espinal and the sense of it was about an open dialogue, not about a specific ideology," Lombardi said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA CRUZ

Pope changes in Burger King

Burger King has long been providing quick meals. Pope Francis has now used it for a quick change.

With hundreds of thousands of Catholic faithful waiting, Pope Francis needed a place to don his vestments to celebrate Mass at the Christ the Redeemer square in Santa Cruz. He had just spent more than 30 minutes in his popemobile waving to thousands lined up on the streets as he drove to the square for the service.

Enter the restaurant known for Whoppers and fries.

The famously unpretentious pope used the fast food joint, which was closed for the morning for the papal visit, before walking to the nearby altar and beginning the mass.

Alfredo Troche, manager of the Burger King, said the papal entourage approached the restaurant and "asked for help because this was an appropriate place and we had closed" to customers.

Minutes later, during his homily, Francis blasted consumerism. He said that by materialistic logic, everything

becomes an object that can be consumed and negotiated.

The company wasted no time in letting the world know of the papal visit. Even before mass had ended, the restaurant put a post on Facebook thanking the pope "for choosing the BK restaurant as your sacristy."

It also included an advertisement-like image showing the pope beneath a Burger King logo and the words: "There are visits that don't just bring joy to your spirit, but also feed it."

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Tech evolving past humans

INNOVATION

Advanced networks too 'unmanageable' for our brains

Technology has become so indispensable that when it breaks down, people's lives go haywire, too.

Computer outages at United Airlines, the New York Stock Exchange and The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday delivered a reminder about our growing dependence on interconnected networks to get through each day.

For the most part, technology has worked smoothly while hatching innovations and conveniences that have made our lives easier and our jobs more productive. Computers, though, could bring more frequent headaches as they link together with billions of other electronic devices and household appliances — a phenomenon that has become known as the "Internet of things."

This technological daisy chain will increase the complexity of



Passengers check into the United Airlines ticket counter at Tampa International Airport on Wednesday, a day in which the airline's network went down. Meanwhile, across the U.S. the Wall Street Journal and New York Stock Exchange both experienced system errors that caused their operations to cease for part of the day. JAMES BORCHUCK/THE TAMPA BAY TIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the systems and raise the risks of massive breakdowns, either through an inadvertent glitch or a malicious attack.

"The problem is humans can't keep up with all the technology they have created," said Avivah Litan, an analyst at Gartner. "It's becoming unmanageable by the human brain. Our best hope



Humans can't keep up with all of the technology they have created.

Avivah Litan, Gartner analyst

may be that computers eventually will become smart enough to maintain themselves."

Technology already is controlling critical systems such as airline routes, electricity grids, financial markets, military weapons, commuter trains, traffic lights and our lines of communications.

Now, computers are taking other aspects of our lives as we depend on smartphones to wake us up in the morning before an app turns on the coffee pot in the kitchen for a caffeine fix that can be enjoyed in the comfort of a home kept at an ideal temperature by an Internet-connected thermostat designed to learn the occupant's preferences.

Within the next few years, we may even be unlocking our doors with high-tech watches after being chauffeured home in robotic cars.

Technology's relentless march demands better security measures to prevent hackers from breaking into systems and more rigid programming standards to reduce the chances of crippling outages, said Lillian Ablon, a technology researcher for the Rand Corp.

"Instead of just letting the technology rush ahead of us and then trying to catch up in terms of privacy and security, we should be baking those things into the systems from the start," she said. "We need to be a little smarter on how we are coding things."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ikea to install electric vehicle charge stations

Ikea Canada aims to be the place to shop for drivers of battery-powered vehicles.

The home furnishings retailer says it is installing charging stations for electric vehicles at all 12 of its stores across Canada.

The company says it is partnering on the project with Sun Country Highway to install two 60-amp charging stations at each location. The rollout is set to be completed by late August, and will be available at no cost to customers on a first-come, first-served basis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IBM creates new microchip

IBM says it has achieved a breakthrough in making computer chips even smaller, creating a test version of the world's first semiconductor that shrinks down the circuitry by overcoming "one of the grand challenges" of the tech industry. IBM, working with a development partner at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, says it's figured out how to create 7 nanometer chips.

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AUTO INDUSTRY

Google, carmakers competing to usher in the era of self-driving automobiles

Two competing visions could determine how you first experience a driverless car.

Traditional automakers like Mercedes and Toyota already make vehicles equipped with systems that keep cars within their lanes, apply the brakes or park by themselves. Their plan is to gradually automate more functions of driving until, perhaps by 2025, some cars will be fully capable of driving themselves.

But Google, Alibaba, Baidu and other tech companies are aggressively working on their own self-driving vehicles, and could leapfrog the car industry in bringing them to market. Google, for instance, promises to deliver a self-driving car in five years.

"One thing is clear. The next five to 10 years are going to be the most disruptive we've ever seen in the history of personal transportation," said analyst Karl

Brauer of Kelley Blue Book.

But Google says a gradual approach to going driverless is wrong — and even dangerous.

"The prevailing philosophy is that we're going to take the driver assistance systems that are in the vehicle today and we're going to incrementally make those better and better, and eventually we'll get to this point where we have self-driving cars," Chris Urmson, the director of Google's

self-driving car program, said in May at an event in Mountain View. "We fundamentally don't believe that's the case. We believe that's like saying, 'if I work really hard at jumping, one day I'll just be able to fly.'"

Experts find Google's five-year time frame overly ambitious. There are legal and ethical issues to work through before driverless cars go mainstream.

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THE KOHLER REPORT: ON ANTI-VAXXERS



It's like you decided to jump off the bandwagon because you saw it was headed for a cliff.

uneducated tune. While I'm glad they've seen the (potentially deadly) light, I'm irritated to no end that it took a measles outbreak to convince them.

As you may know, in 1998, the Lancet published Dr. Andrew Wakefield's iffy study linking the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine to autism. As you may not know, but probably should, it was retracted in 2012, two years after Wakefield lost his medical licence.

But the rumour spread, much like the measles, and some people stopped vaccinating their children. Now, a disease that the CDC declared eliminated from the U.S. in 2000 is back with 800 new U.S. cases since January 2014. Imagine the last scene of a horror movie: The camera slowly zooms in on a tombstone that reads "Here lies The Measles, 2000." Then, just as you're about to relax, a pock-

marked arm juts out of the ground! TO BE CONTINUED...

It's thanks to those 800 cases that "34% of parents think vaccines have more benefit than they did one year ago." Wow. There was so much proof that the vaccine worked (i.e., lots of people were dying from the measles, and then after the vaccine was introduced, people stopped getting the measles ... anyway, boring!), and so little evidence it caused autism (if one printed lie is evidence). It just blows my mind that people attach themselves to the less-proven, more dangerous element of the story.

Now they're casually, "Yeah, I heard there was a measles outbreak, I guess I see why vaccines work." Eff you! It's like you decided to jump off the bandwagon because you saw it was headed for a cliff.

By the way, if you're still on the fence, did you know Wakefield did part of the

"study" at his own child's birthday party, where he took blood samples from some of the party guests? ("Let's play pin the needle in your vein!") The study was so full of bunk, it's as if people decided to put the health of their children and thousands of others at risk because of a fairy tale.

It's pretty much as ridiculous to me as a child who learns about Santa Claus and then never wants to let him go. Even after finding out, they're still like, "No. I've seen pictures of him in books. He's on my Coke bottle. He's real." And then they have kids and, even though everyone's like, "There's no Santa, you better buy your kids some presents," they're like, "I don't care what billions of people say, Santa Claus is coming to town." But then on Christmas morning, there are no presents and then it's all, "You know what, there might not be a Santa." Yeah, we told you.

The only HUGE difference here is that a lack of Santa isn't going to kill anyone.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The bottle collector and the power of a simple 'Thank you'

There was a man asking for change outside the meat shop the other day.

I gave him a few loonies and a bus token.

Later that day, C. — my boyfriend — passed by the same meat shop and the same man. C. didn't have change, but he was on his way to buy a Jamaican patty.

"Do you want one?" he asked.

"No, I'm vegan," the man said, in all seriousness.

"They have spinach ones," C. countered.

"No ..." the man said, "They're kind of gross."

C. — when he told me this story — smiled and shrugged, "I guess beggars can be choosers."

Fast forward to a recent evening. I was on the front porch with a gin and tonic. A man pushed his bike, loaded with bags, along the sidewalk and stopped in front of the house.

"Bottles?" he asked, and headed toward the recycling bins. With my parents in town, it's been a boozy week, so I told him to hold on and I popped inside to grab wine, beer and gin bottles.

Bottle collectors sweep my neighbourhood daily. One told me he works a 12-hour shift through the night. Most are more likely to say hi to me than many of my neighbours. They're more likely to show concern for my welfare, too.

Last year, I was approaching my house at the same time as one man. It was dark, and I didn't have lights on my bike. The man pointed to his own headlamp. "Lights!" he said, and pointed to my bike. He said something like, "Danger!" — and I knew I was being kindly admonished.

This time, empty bottles in my arms, I came back out to the street to the man waiting for me. "Thank you!" he said. "Good one!" he noted as I passed the tall amber beer bottles. "Thank you!" he said again. "Thank you! Thank you!"

He moved on to the next house, and before he passed out of sight, he waved and called, "Thank you!"

I hadn't been thanked that much all week. I thought how little I know about him, and how much I assume.

I don't know where he goes when his shift ends, whether his family is around, or how he got into the bottle-collecting life. But if I was surprised at his pleasantness, I must have assumed he was unhappy.

I don't know where the man by the meat shop came from, what events collided to land him on that sidewalk, or why he went vegan (if he really is). But if I was surprised at his alleged diet, I must have assumed he was desperate.

In both cases, I was wrong. And in both cases, I have no right to judge.

Happy face/Sad face

From **voyaging viruses** to **frightened foxes**, Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Return of fox hunting has activists howling

Animal-rights activists are braying about the U.K. government's proposal to relax the rules on the controversial sport of fox hunting. David Cameron's Conservative Party wants to allow it in England and Wales, on "appropriate" land and with protection for other animals. MPs are pretty evenly split ahead of Wednesday's vote. Right now, hunters may only flush out and stalk foxes with a maximum of two dogs.

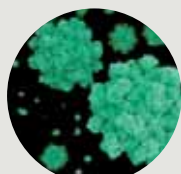


The Great Canadian beersicle

It brings a whole new meaning to "ice-cold beer." A Fredericton shop has made the ultimate summer refresher: beer freezies. The Dooryard Shandy Sorbet Freezie is made with a local wheat ale, lemon and lime juice and honey sorbet. Most of the alcohol is burned off in the cooking process, so "You're not going to get drunk off them — fortunately," says creator Levi Lawrence. SOURCE: CBC

Stowaway sickness strikes globe

A once-rare strain of the stomach-flu germ norovirus that broke out in China this winter seems to be hitching a ride around the globe. The virus, called GII.17, has turned up recently in Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Kenya. It's contagious but not usually life-threatening, though a global pandemic could easily infect hundreds of thousands. Drug company Takeda is working on a vaccine — a notoriously finicky task in science. SOURCE: BLOOMBERG



Listen up for good news about hearing

Despite research, there's still little medical treatment (only surgery) available for genetic deafness. That may be about to change. Researchers in the journal Science Translation Medicine have hit upon a possible gene therapy. They used genetically deaf mice in an experiment, and with some biochemical wizardry, were able to stimulate production of a protein that doesn't work in some deaf people. Then when they surprised the unsuspecting rodents with loud noises, the mice jumped — indicating the treatment worked. SOURCE: THE GOOD NEWS NETWORK

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The dramatic approach

FILM

These musical stories are told with panache

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



Asif Kapadia's documentary *Amy* features never-before-seen footage and more than 100 interviews with people from singer Amy Winehouse's personal and professional life. It is a heart-breaking up-close-and-personal look at a woman who, as Tony Bennett says in the movie, didn't live long enough to learn how to live.

Kapadia may be best known as the filmmaker behind the BAFTA-winning documentary *Senna*, but says, "It's funny, but I am really a drama guy."

His docs are structured like feature films. *Amy*, for instance, plays on a few levels, featuring several dramatic arcs. It's a cautionary tale of the effects of international stardom. It's a portrait of drug addiction, exploitation and a woman who looked to men for protection, and chose badly. It's the story of *Amy*, a fiercely talented person who laid her heart bare in her art only to have what should have been her saviour, her music, ultimately be her undoing.

When I asked Kapadia if he looked at other music docs before beginning work on *Amy* he



Amy Winehouse movie *Amy* is a documentary structured like a feature film. Critic Richard Crouse looks back at other films about music that give the viewer a look into the personal and creative lives of the subjects. ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT

said, "I don't have references I look to. I just kind of make it up as I'm going along. For example, in the sequence with the paparazzi, I'm thinking of *Raging Bull*, with flashguns going off. I'm not thinking of a doc where you have someone's life and then they pick up a guitar and sing."

Here's a list of other music bios — some docs, some features

— that take a dramatic approach and give a complete look at the personal and creative lives of their subjects:

Anvil! The Story of Anvil

It would be easy to call *Anvil* a real-life *Spinal Tap*.

The story of the heaviest heavy metal band you've never heard of bears a strong resemblance to



the legendary fictional band, but it is so much more than that. It is a story of passion, of trying to beat the odds, of friendship, of hope against hope. It's also quite funny and the music will peel the paint off your home theatre walls.

I'm Not There

It's an elliptical and metaphoric

retelling of Bob Dylan's life, but none of the characters in it are called Bob Dylan. Most of them don't look like Dylan, and the one who most looks like Dylan is a woman, played by Cate Blanchett.

Yet I felt I knew more about what makes Bob Dylan tick when I left the theatre than I did about Johnny Cash following *Walk the*

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Amy ★★★★★
Big Game ★★★★★
Batkid Begins ★★★★★
Self/less ★★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS

★★★★★ SEE IT
★★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

Line or Ray Charles after Ray.

Something from Nothing: The Art of Rap

A vibrant look at the art of hip hop, the first documentary from Ice-T profiles the passion of the grandmasters of rap: Afrika Bambaataa, Treach Criss, Doug E. Fresh, KRS-One, Dr. Dre and more.

Worth it to hear Snoop Dogg's (now Snoop Lion) songwriting methodology: "I need to smoke a lot of weed, and have a couple girls there because I like looking at them."

Get on Up

James Brown was known as many things — The Godfather of Soul, Soul Brother No. 1, Mr. Dynamite and The Hardest Working Man in Show Business — but he preferred to be called Mr. Brown. His rise from poverty to the top of the R&B charts is brought to life in a knockout performance from Chadwick Boseman, who plays Brown from age 16 to 60.

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The voice of a suave villain

INTERVIEW

John Hamm joins the ranks of animated in Minions



Ned Ehrbar
Metro|Life

Jon Hamm's latest role calls for him to be suave, debonair and have a certain '60s flair. But this is certainly not Don Draper. "That's a stretch," Hamm says of comparing his Minions character with his Mad Men legacy. "Herb definitely has his own style, and I don't think it's very similar to Don's."

But that doesn't mean the character



Hamm lends his voice to the husband of a supervillain in *Minions*. GETTY IMAGES

Herb (Jon Hamm) romances Scarlet (Sandra Bullock) in *Minions*. UNIVERSAL PICTURES/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

doesn't seem a bit, shall we say, familiar. "If

there's an analogy to be made, I think it's closer to Austin Powers, at least from a sartorial sense," Hamm admits. "That was the one thing I was careful about. I didn't want to veer too far into Austin Powers territory."

Hamm gets animated for *Minions* as Herb, husband to the world's first female super-villain (voiced by Sandra Bullock) and something of a villain himself. The happily married do-bad-ers share a bond and common respect that Hamm found to be entirely un-'60s. "It's almost subversive in a way. It's couched in this sort of cartoony evil sense,

but it's very progressive," he says. "He's very, very comfortable in who he is, and he loves his wife and she loves him right back. That's the really kind of lovely part of their relationship."

Already being a fan of the Despicable Me franchise, Hamm was more than happy to come on board for the prequel focusing on the gibberish-spouting yellow

LOONEY TUNES

Learning with Bugs Bunny

A huge animation fan since childhood, Jon Hamm is well aware of the power of children's entertainment.

"I wouldn't know anything about opera if it wasn't for Bugs Bunny. That was my entire introduction to opera music, he says. "It's the combination of the high and the low that I thought was very cool. I had no concept of it as a kid. You just think it's hilarious that Bugs Bunny is a lady Viking. That's funny! And then you realize, 'Why do I know that? Why do I know all of the words to The Marriage of Figaro?' Because of Bugs Bunny." NED EHRLBAR FOR METRO

henchmen. But that doesn't necessarily mean he'd want a set of minions of his own, of course.

"Knowing what I know about how effective they are at doing their jobs, I probably wouldn't assign them any tasks that really needed to be done well," he says. "Like picking up dry cleaning — all of your clothes would be ruined ... I would say, 'Go mow the lawn,' and the lawn would be lit on fire, you know? But it would be great if you had one around, just to hang out with."

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Dreams can come true

INTERVIEW

'Good Canadian boy' was thrilled to help make Batkid happen



Richard Crouse
For Metro Life

Chances are you saw the footage on the news.

On Nov. 15, 2013, San Francisco transformed into Gotham By-the-Bay as Batkid, accompanied by Batman, rescued a damsel in distress, threw the Riddler in jail and saved Lou Seal, the Mascot of the San Francisco Giants, from the grips of criminal mastermind The Penguin.

It was Make-A-Wish's largest ever event, a citywide happening to grant five-year-old cancer survivor Miles Scott's request to be a superhero for a day.

The Batkid—who was still in diapers when he was diagnosed with leukemia—drew crowds



A new documentary tells the story of making Miles Scott's wish come true: Scott, far right, was Batman for a day. Mike Jutan, middle, played The Penguin. ALL PHOTOS WARNER BROS./GETTY IMAGES

in the tens of thousands, earned a Twitter message from U.S. President Barack Obama and was given the key to the city by San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee.

London, Ont.-born software engineer Mike Jutan was given a front-row seat to the action

when his friend, inventor and acrobat Eric Johnson, asked him to play Gotham's greatest villain The Penguin.

"As a good Canadian boy, I like peppering community service stuff in amongst the many things I already do," says Jutan,

who now lives in San Fran and works for Industrial Light and Magic. "I always thought I'd like to do something with Make-A-Wish."

A new documentary, *Batkid Begins*, details how the event bloomed from a small experi-



"This is the most insane, crazy thing that can happen when people work together, when people skip work on a Friday for the good of a little kid."

Mike Jutan, a.k.a.

The Penguin in *Batkid*

ence into a heartwarming media sensation.

"To me, it was exciting it was getting big, because I think it is inspiring to other people. As

it got bigger and bigger, I felt like we had a responsibility to stand for what Make-A-Wish stands for but also stick a big flag in the ground as the city of San Francisco."

To prepare to play The Penguin, Jutan "started obsessively watching the 1960s *Batman*. I watched them over and over and over, studied Burgess Meredith's character to get the walk down and the laugh and some of his quips. I wanted to get an idea of his personality so any die-hard *Batman* fans there would also enjoy it," but, he adds, "Our only real goal was to make sure Miles had a great wish, and that we succeeded in helping him save Gotham."

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Mickey O'Hagan and Kitana Kiki Rodriguez in *Tangerine*. CONTRIBUTED

Way more than iPhoning it in

GROUNDBREAKING

Tangerine's smartphone move perfect for gritty film

Steve Gow
For Metro

After two TV shows, five films and 15 years in showbiz, Sean Baker has finally found success shooting a movie on his iPhone.

"I wish I could say it was born out of the story and an esthetic approach — I would've been impressed with myself," laughed the New York-based filmmaker recently. "But it actually all stems from a budgetary constraint — we just didn't have the money. I'm on my fifth film, I couldn't pull favours

anymore."

As such, Baker (perhaps best-known as one of the creators of TV's *Greg The Bunny*), set out to make *Tangerine* — a movie shot entirely on smartphones and the very first to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

"Some mainstream films have been using tiny HD cameras — they just haven't made a big deal of it," said Baker, insisting many movies have adopted non-conventional footage that's enhanced in post-production.

Baker knew the true challenge with engaging audiences was overturning the preconceptions that come with openly admitting your film was entirely shot on iPhones. "Hopefully the reviews that also focus on how good my actors (are) override it," said Baker.

Early reviews have undoubtedly quelled the director's concern.

The gritty comic-drama about a pair of transgender prostitutes trying to hunt down a cheating boyfriend has been lauded for its groundbreaking performances and cinematic texture — factors that Baker admits he hadn't realized until he began filming on mobile devices.

"All the benefits revealed themselves to us as we were shooting," said Baker. "Like the fact that we could shoot more clandestine (and) we wouldn't be intimidating first-time actors with a device that doesn't look like a camera...lots of things after the fact made it seem like the obvious choice all along."

Baker may have stumbled into his greatest success through the modesty of a micro-budget, but if *Tangerine* attracts an audience the way it

FILM NOTES

Duplass Brothers effect

Tangerine has the strong backing of indie film-making icons The Duplass Brothers (*The Overnight*, *The Puffy Chair*) who jumped on early as producers on the project.

"They've been extremely generous in terms of (looking) for filmmakers that they want to be supportive of in some degree and they just make it happen," said Baker. "(Plus) their relationship with film sales and the festivals, it really does go a far way."

Before there was a script

Baker researched the film by interviewing members of the transgender community in L.A., including lead actors Mya Taylor and Kitana Kiki Rodriguez:

"Mya opened the world to us," admitted Baker. "It was a really collaborative time and really nice experience especially since I had no idea that Kiki and Mya were so incredibly talented." STEVE GOW/FOR METRO

has won over many film critics, his innovative production may yet become the next big trend in Tinseltown.

"Hollywood's already doing elevated found-footage type movies," reasoned Baker, pointing to the fad that's fathered films like *Paranormal Activity* and *Project Almanac*.

"I think Hollywood is always looking for whatever is hot (so) why not? If they see an opportunity in it, they'll take it."



I never thought that our little film would actually be received so well.

Director Sean Baker

CASTING

Two stars inspired *Tangerine*

Tangerine would never have happened had Baker not met trans women and aspiring performers Mya Taylor and Kitana Kiki Rodriguez at the Los Angeles LGBT Center a few years ago. It was their lives and their deep knowledge of the neighbourhood that inspired and informed the film.

The film is alive with a pulsating energy and is often quite funny, even in depicting an awful day. That humour came directly from Rodriguez and Taylor. Baker describes their banter as a standup comedy

routine come to life.

Bawdy and fast-talking, the two friends are the first to point out that their characters are basically them.

Taylor is the mellow one — talkative and thoughtful even at the tail end of a long day. Rodriguez is the spark-plug. Pretty and manic, she speaks quickly and playfully, peppering her speech with benign expletives followed by coy apologies for her "naughtiness."

Together, the two still even make Baker blush with their brash and occasionally off-

the-rails commentary about anything from police raids on Donut Time to Ryan Gosling.

Baker hopes that people will remember the film for his actresses and not the iPhone.

"There's a lot of talent out there in areas where the industry isn't looking and this is just one more reason to be diverse in casting," he said. "The biggest success for this movie would be for the industry to embrace them — that this is the first chapter, hopefully, in their long careers."

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Pfeifer Brown and Reese Mishler in *The Gallows*, a Warner Bros. Pictures release. HANDOUT

The Gallows: Ghost of high school past

INTERVIEW

Co-directors set their film somewhere truly terrifying

**Matt
Prigge**
Metro in New York City

Internet upstarts turned feature film directing duo Travis Cluff and Chris Lofing set their latest project, *The Gallows*, in the already terrifying world of high school theatre. Add in a decades-old tragic accident, the possibility of a vengeful ghost and a darkened, after-hours school setting and you've got something to scream about.

Such a unique setting. What sparked the idea?

Cluff: You know what? We had thoughts of doing something in a high school setting — because high school is scary enough during the day, and it's even scarier at night when no one is around and the lights are out and you can hear the remnants of what echoes stirred in your high school corridors (laughs).

But we wanted to tell a story that could be relatable

and very fun and also could be a little bit like life imitating art. It sounds a little bit artsy, but we feel like we tried to get a story like that mixed into all of it, and then adding the layers of the scares and the suspense and the thriller on top of that.

So essentially you have this story of this guy who likes this girl, and he goes out of his way and out of his element to be with her, and we follow that story throughout — you know, him expressing his love for her and how he does it and how she accepts it.

Did either of you have any experience in high school theatre to inform this?

Lofing: Yeah, we both were involved in theatre. I was involved in show choir, so I was always on stage performing. Travis did several plays in high school.

Cluff: I've been at rehearsals and stuff after hours, as well, when the school hallways are empty and it is very creepy. It's just different when you're alone.

With found-footage movies, how much do you have to think about justifying why the characters keep filming as things go terribly wrong?

**THE PLOT
IN BRIEF**
A HIGH SCHOOL
REVIVAL OF A PLAY
THAT ENDED IN
TRAGEDY RESURRECTS
THE GHOST OF THE
VICTIM

Cluff: It was always in our mind. We know that everyone has questions, we wanted to answer all the questions we could or resolve any concern that a person might have. It's very tricky to do in a found-footage film.

Lofing: Yeah, it's a constant juggle between making a movie and making it feel legitimate, making it feel real. You're always balancing between those two things, and there's a very fine line that you can tip-toe around.

There's also something fun about having your primary narrator doing the filming, Ryan, being kind of annoying.

Cluff: He's a mixed bag. Some people say, "I wanted more of him," some people say, "I wanted less," so we figured that's just about right.

It's always good to have a character where the audience wouldn't feel too terrible were something bad to happen to him.

Lofing: Yes, absolutely (laughs).

HORROR

Scary movies a breeding ground for new talent

From Johnny Depp in *A Nightmare on Elm Street* to Jamie Lee Curtis in *Halloween*, horror films have been a good way for actors to cut their teeth in Hollywood.

The Gallows, opening Friday, features a cast of relatively unknown actors hoping to make their mark, including Cassidy Gifford, the 21-year-old daughter of TV personality Kathie Lee Gifford and former football player Frank Gifford.

Gifford says she's known since she was a young child that she wanted to perform.

"I did the Three Little Pigs when I was in first grade, and I was the pig with the brick house, so I technically was the smart pig, not to toot my own horn," she joked.

The Gallows is set at a high school where a student died in a horrific accident during a school play in 1993. Twenty years later, the school tries to resurrect the production. The night before the play is to open, a few students break in to trash the set, but find themselves trapped inside the school. The movie is presented like footage recorded by one of the students.

Gifford said the film was large-



Cassidy Gifford and Ryan Shoos in New Line Cinema's horror flick *The Gallows*. HANDOUT

“They wouldn't tell us what we were going to shoot until the morning we got there.”
Cassidy Gifford

ly improvised with the actors playing characters who share their first names.

"They wouldn't tell us what we were going to shoot until the morning we got there, sometimes the night before if we were lucky, but they would give us the outline and say, 'These are the points that we want to hit,'" she said. "There were a

few things that needed to be said for plot (points) that would come out later in the movie, but ultimately it kind of came down to us kind of playing off one another."

Made on a small budget, Gifford said getting studio backing and a summer opening makes the film "an underdog story."

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Ryan Reynolds plays the reincarnated version of an outrageously wealthy, greedy man in *Self/less*. ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT

Q&A

Ryan Reynolds talks hubris, junkets and franchises

Matt Prigge

Metro in New York City

Ryan Reynolds just got back from five weeks in Bangkok, and right away he has to do a junket, solo, for his new film, the sci-fi thriller *Self/less*.

And yet despite jet lag he remains in good spirits, even if junkets aren't at all times an ideal form of communication, and even if the film he's talking about can get heavy. In it, he plays the reincarnated version of a wealthy greed monster, played by Ben Kingsley, who's so rich he's able to pay a shady company

to transfer his consciousness from his dying body to a new one, namely one played by Ryan Reynolds.

This is a film that really digs into anxieties over mortality and the dissolution of the self. Were those the ideas that most grabbed you?

Not really. It was the idea of hubris and arrogance and the class system, and all these things that propel a person to say, "Oh, I cocked up the first life. Let me just buy another one."

It's just so vile to think like that. I like seeing characters fall from grace, and I like seeing characters accept or deal with consequences.

Damian actually becomes someone who doesn't know what to do with his wealth.

There's this quest for thrills that is ever-growing. I know one guy who just does some of the most insane s—

you can imagine. Maybe it's because he's experienced so much already. He's bought everything he's wanted. He's always owned the fastest cars, the coolest planes. After a while it becomes a law of diminishing returns. There's a lack of well-being with these people. Not all of them, just particular ones.

Not every rich person is terrible and bored.

Not at all! I know wealthy people who are truly wonderful. And people like Bill Gates — those guys are going to die and leave 20, 30 billion dollars to charity. That's spectacular, if you ask me.

This isn't as ostentatiously visual as the other films by Tarsem Singh, like *The Fall* and *Immortals*, but he's still a director known for his visuals. How do you deal with filmmakers like that?

It's nerve-racking, because you think going into it, are they going to be able to talk to actors? Are they going to (know) what the scene is about apart from it just looking cool? But he's the opposite for me. I found him really attentive to each scene.

A movie is only as good as its director, and the sort of unfortunate truth is in this industry, it's a director's medium. The director is God on a film set. We can only succeed as far as he's willing to take us.

***Self/less* seems rare, not only in that it's a character-driven, ideas-driven sci-fi movie, but also that it's a one-off, not a franchise movie. I can't imagine there being a *Self/less 2*.**

Oh God, no! But that's great, isn't it? It's refreshing that there are some films like that still. It's scary, because everything's a franchise now. It does kill off the one-off movies — the small films by Screen Gems or Focus

Features. It's getting harder and harder to finance those movies. I'm worried for the future, in the sense that one day, 12 months a year it's just going to be franchise films. Even at awards season it will be franchise movies that will collect all the gold. It's a rare breed these days to have a one-off.

You still occasionally get to do something small, like your forthcoming gambling drama *Mississippi Grind*.

I always try to do those. I love those. Buried was one of those — the smaller ones that sometimes just play at festival circuits. But to me they're everything. I love, love doing them.



***Self/less* is that rarest of birds: A character-driven sci-fi flick.**

DIRECTOR'S TAKE

If you want to enjoy this movie, don't watch the trailer: Tarsem Singh

Film director Tarsem Singh's new sci-fi feature *Self/less* is packed with twists.

If you're curious about where a lot of them lead, all you have to do is watch the movie's trailer, Singh grumbles.

"They obviously think it's better to have (audiences) come in and be angry than not come in at all," Singh says in a recent phone interview from Montreal. "I didn't mind some of it being given away, but yes, if you asked me, I think it went overboard."

The Indian-born filmmaker says his complaints about the action-packed teaser fell on deaf ears.

He'd rather people stay away from it altogether if they plan on seeing the movie.

"When we play the movie cold to people it played so well because when people didn't know what's happening they were so intrigued

THE CANADIAN PRESS



I know a couple people who are at that level of obscene wealth. There's something perverse about their lives, especially when they're young.

Ryan Reynolds, on certain rich people

Now playing



SCI-FI & FANTASY Self/less

Director: Tarsem Singh
Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Natalie Martinez

In this psychological science-fiction thriller, a wealthy man dying from cancer undergoes a radical medical procedure that transfers his consciousness into the body of a healthy young man. But all is not as it seems when he starts to uncover the mystery of the body's origin.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: **24%** **Audience:** **62%**



ACTION & ADVENTURE Big Game

Director: Jalmari Helander
Starring: Samuel L. Jackson, Jim Broadbent

In the rugged countryside of Finland, a 13-year-old embarks on a traditional quest to prove himself by spending 24 hours alone in the wild, armed with only a bow and arrow. After witnessing a spectacular crash, he discovers the escape pod from Air Force One, containing the U.S. president.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: **74%** **Audience:** **38%**



ANIMATION Minions

Directors: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda
Starring: Sandra Bullock, Jon Hamm

Minions, perpetually serving the most despicable of masters, find themselves without someone to serve and fall into a deep depression. But one Minion named Kevin has a plan, and he and his pals venture out into the world to find a new evil boss.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: **59%** **Audience:** **+98%**



HORROR The Gallows

Directors: Travis Cluff, Chris Lofing
Starring: Cassidy Gifford, Pfeifer Brown

Twenty years after a deadly freak accident at a high school play, a misguided attempt to re-stage the play and honour the student proves that some things are better left in the past.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: **13%** **Audience:** **+85%**

DRAMA & ROMANCE Suite Française

Director: Saul Dibb
Starring: Margot Robbie, Ruth Wilson

Set during the 1940s, Suite Française tells the story of Lucile Angellier as she awaits news from her husband, a prisoner of war.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: **76%** **Audience:** **+89%**



ACTION & ADVENTURE Terminator: Genisys

Director: Alan Taylor
Starring: Emilia Clarke, Jai Courtney

James Cameron's sci-fi classic gets rebooted — designed as the first instalment in a trilogy.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: **26%** **Audience:** **67%**



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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



A visit to Calgary is like exploring a Canadian province and five American states all in one trip



Alberta is all about enjoying contrasts in everything from landscapes to food. At right, a course at the River Café and funnel cake.

ALL PHOTOS BY JESSICA ALLEN



I just got back from my first trip to Calgary, where I was filming at the Stampede for my day job. I saw real-life cowboys. I even saw hail — in July! But mostly I saw Calgary as a city of contrasts.

Take the political scene: The 44-year-long PC reign ended back in May when the NDP won the provincial election, not to mention that for the last five years, the young, charismatic, liberal-minded Naheed Nenshi has been mayor. Yet everyone with whom I spoke had something to say about their new bike lanes: mostly that they hated them.

And the Stampede itself — a 10-day-long annual event that's defined the city for nearly 100

years — is a study in contrasts: Cuffs and collars can come courtesy of iconic Lammle's Western Wear or the celebrity-dressing fashion designer Paul Hardy. Entertainment can be found at the Cowboy Casino, where bartenders make Hooters' servers look modest, or at any number of champagne-flowing private events hosted by Big Oil's top brass. And, depending to whom you speak, the Stampede is either a celebration of majestic animals or an abuse of them.

And then there's the food: Sample classic corn dogs, funnel cakes, turkey legs and, new this year, pizza topped with cockroaches on the Stampede fairgrounds. Or visit any number of eateries, like the River Café, Model Milk and Charcut, which consistently rank on the country's best restaurants lists, for innovative comestibles on another level.

I did both styles, eating a lob-

ster corn dog, mac and cheese topped with pulled pork and funnel cake one day and devouring four memorable courses at the River Café the next.

Alberta's optics can be confusing — even more so when you consider that the vast province has been the landscape doppelgänger for Montana, Texas, Wyoming and Colorado. Although older films, like *River of No Return* (1954), *Little Big*

Man (1970) and *Days of Heaven* (1979) — maybe one of the most beautifully photographed films ever — filmed scenes there, it was Clint Eastwood's Academy Award-winning 1992 film *Unforgiven* that put the province on the map, so to speak.

Legends of the Fall and *Brokeback Mountain* followed. And Christopher Nolan seems to have a special penchant for it: He shot scenes for both *Inception* and *Interstellar* in Alberta.

Most recently, the province doubled as South Dakota when Oscar-winning director Alejandro González Iñárritu hauled Tom Hardy and Leonardo DiCaprio on what's become a notoriously difficult shoot to film scenes for *The Revenant*, which will be widely released next year.

I was only there three days. But I'm going back, not only because I saw just the silhouette of the Rockies from car windows, but also because the people are warm and wonderful and it'll be like exploring a Canadian province and five American states all in one trip. And also, I suppose, because opposites attract.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's *The Social*.

DOUGHNUT-LICKING VIDEO

Grande fallout

Police said Wednesday they were investigating video that appears to show Ariana Grande licking doughnuts at a shop in Southern California. Earlier, Grande apologized for saying "I hate America" in the same video.

Police in Lake Elsinore, where the doughnut shop is located, said they and Riverside County public health officials were investigating the leaked video, which appeared to show the 22-year-old singer and a man with her "maliciously lick" the doughnuts.

Mayra Solis, 22, a cashier at Wolfee Donuts, said the singer didn't purchase any of the doughnuts she licked. "She was really rude," Solis told *The Associated Press*.

A spokeswoman for the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health said the agency was investigating why the doughnuts were left out unprotected and exposed to the public, in violation of state food laws. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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POTUS with a Big problem

BIG GAME

Finn's actioner an homage to the '80s films of his youth



Richard Crouse
Metro|Life

When Finnish director Jalmari Helander saw his new film *Big Game* at the Toronto International Film Festival's Midnight Madness, he was reduced to tears.

"It was one of the nicest moments of my life," he says on the line from Helsinki. "It was a really big theatre with a lot of people and they were giving it applauses in the middle and shouting and really loving the film. I was crying in my seat with pure happiness. It was really amazing."

"If you think about rock



Big Game director Jalmari Helander CONTRIBUTED

stars, they play for an audience and get feedback at all times. But for a moviemaker it's really, really rare you can see the reaction of the audience."

The movie is an '80s style POTUS-with-a-problem action flick starring Samuel L. Jackson as the U.S. president stranded by terrorists in the wilds of Finland. He's kept alive by Oskari (Onni Tommila), a teen who demonstrates his bravery by keeping the president alive despite great odds.

Big Game is an homage to the kinds of movies Helander

grew up watching, "the old Indiana Jones films or Spielberg." The kind of films, he says, that "stretch the limits of what's believable and what's not."

Being a director, he adds, also gives him the chance to impart the euphoric feeling he felt the first time he saw *Escape from New York* or *Die Hard*.

"That's the reason I want to make movies, to try and give the same feeling to someone else."

Big Game's star is Jackson, but the movie's beating heart is Helander's nephew and favourite actor Onni Tommila, who was just 13 when he shot the film.

The role is very physical, but Onni says the one stunt he was allowed to do was cut from the film and "when I am shooting with the bow that was done in a green screen. It wasn't that cool."

What was cool was working with his co-star. Just not the one you might expect. "At first I was nervous in front of Samuel L. Jackson, but in the end I think I was more nervous in front of my father." His dad co-stars as a villager and they share several scenes together. "I want him to feel like... I can't explain it. In some ways working with my father is harder, but in another way it is easier."



Onni Tommila and Samuel L. Jackson in the Finnish-made film *Big Game*. CONTRIBUTED

Rock stars, they play for an audience and get feedback at all times. But for a moviemaker it's really, really rare you can see the reaction of the audience.

Jalmari Helander on TIFF response to *Big Game*

Billy Connolly is the daftest punk of all

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY

Scottish actor talks aging and lighting candles for pal Robin

Three weeks before he was to start shooting his new film, *What We Did on Our Holiday*, Scottish star Billy Connolly got a wallop of bad news.

On the same day in September 2013, within a span of hours, he received two major diagnoses: that he had Parkinson's disease and early-stage prostate cancer.

Connolly underwent surgery to remove the cancer and never considered pulling out of the film. In fact, he didn't even tell writer-director duo Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin about his Parkinson's diagnosis, he said.

"It didn't change anything at all," the 72-year-old comedy legend said in a recent telephone interview, noting he had very few Parkinson's symptoms at the time.

"I think they thought I was just getting old, when I sat

down a lot, which is quite right. I am getting old."

Connolly even joked that his condition "was very useful" for his role as an ailing grandfather who gets a visit from his son and his fractured family to celebrate his 75th birthday in the Scottish Highlands.

Rosamund Pike and David Tennant play parents who have separated but don't want their extended family to know. Emilia Jones, Bobby Smalldridge and Harriet Turnbull are standouts as their children; Connolly said they deftly handled dialogue that involved a

lot of ad-libbing.

The sweet comedy, which was inspired by the BBC show *Outnumbered*, opens at Toronto's Cineplex Varsity Cinemas and Vancouver's Cineplex Fifth Avenue Cinemas on Friday.

Connolly's character has an attitude of acceptance and hu-

mour about his illness, which also reflects the way the actor feels.

He said he's just as enthusiastic about life as ever, noting he was once asked by a woman if he wanted to join a society supporting the right to die and his response was an emphatic "No" (preceded by an unprintable expletive).

"You must never give these things an even break, because you certainly find they overwhelm you, and it's all people want to talk about," he said from his home on the Maltese island of Gozo, where he likes to draw.

"You become defined by it. But I've had 45, 50 years without (Parkinson's), so I can get along just fine, thank you very much. And I find it very interesting, especially in my comedy life, because my mind works differently. It works at a different speed and I find it very exciting."

The late comedy star Robin Williams, who was Connolly's good friend, was said to be suffering from the early stages of Parkinson's disease — as well as depression and

anxiety — before he committed suicide in August 2014.

Connolly said he spoke with Williams shortly before his death and he "knew there was something wrong."

"He kept saying that he loved me and asking if I believed him and I said, 'Of course I believe you. Don't be daft,'" said Connolly.

"My wife's a psychologist and afterward she said, 'I think that was him saying goodbye.'"

Connolly said he met Williams in Canada in the 1970s when they were in the studio at the same time for tapings of the CBC-TV talk show *90 Minutes Live*, hosted by Peter Gzowski.

"He's got me going to church, the bugger," said Connolly of Williams.

"Well, I don't go and pray, I go and light a candle for him. And my sister died a couple of weeks ago, so I light two candles."

"It really appeals to me, the flame burning when you leave the building, you know?"

In October, Connolly will take his ad-libbed standup comedy *High Horse Tour* to Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Billy Connolly and Emilia Jones in the upcoming film *What We Did on Our Holiday*. HANDOUT/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Private poet's life now public

Emily Dickinson was born, and lived a secluded life, in Amherst, Mass. While she rarely travelled beyond the town, her poems had global reach. Now the world comes to Amherst.

NUALA O'CONNOR/FOR METRO



MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM

1 The Homestead, 280 Main St.

This yellow mansion, built by Dickinson's grandfather, was the poet's home for most of her life. She was born and died there. Now it is one half of the Emily Dickinson Museum. Visitors can enjoy a tour and stand in the light-filled bedroom where Dickinson wrote and lowered baskets of gingerbread from her window to children below. The museum has a wonderful shop for all things Emily — dolls, books, T-shirts, notecards, posters and fridge magnets.



DADEROT/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

2 The Evergreens, Main Street

This Italianate villa lies across the garden from The Homestead and is the other half of the Emily Dickinson Museum. This was the home of Dickinson's brother Austin and his wife Susan, Emily's dearest friend. This is a house of atmosphere — it retains its Victorian decor and much of Austin and Sue's paintings and furniture.



MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM

3 Jones Library, 43 Amity St.

The library's Emily Dickinson Room houses a large collection of Dickinson-related items, including an eclectic exhibition of Emily-related memorabilia. You can see, among other things, her original calling card, first editions of her posthumously published poetry collections, and a set of cameo buttons that belonged to the poet.



FLICKR: MELVIN MASON

4 West Cemetery, Triangle Street

The graveyard where Dickinson is buried is a tree-filled oasis off North Pleasant Street. Here you can see the Amherst History Mural with Dickinson at its heart. Here, too, is the Dickinson family plot, framed by a black wrought-iron fence, where Emily rests with her parents and sister. Brother Austin is buried at Wildwood Cemetery. Fans leave mementoes on and beside Emily's grave, including toys, flowers and handwritten notes.



FLICKR: ROBERT GRAY

5 Amherst History Museum, 67 Amity St.

Many people are familiar with Dickinson's white dress, and this lovely museum has it on display in a glass case. The dress, known as a wrapper or house dress, is made of dimity, has handy pockets and a row of mother-of-pearl buttons. (The Emily Dickinson Museum displays a replica of the same dress.)

Nuala O'Connor is the author of historical fiction novel *Miss Emily*, to be published on Tuesday.

Manchester shows its heart

ENGLAND

City protects historic sites amid modern shops, eateries

Kathy Buckworth
For Metro

"It's really hard to get lost in Manchester," our walking tour guide Jean advised us as we walked this most walkable city. "And you can always find a pub to sit down at and have a pint if you get tired."

In a nutshell, it describes this reinvigorated, yet historic city. Nicknamed "The Original Modern City," Manchester strives to protect its past — incorporating the many cotton mills which were the main source of industry in the city for many years, into its current cityscape — while transforming itself into a city of culture, cuisine and sport.

The best examples of this are the two English Premier League football (soccer) teams, Manchester United and Man-



The Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester, England. KATHY BUCKWORTH FOR METRO PHOTOS

chester City. Extreme rivals, their stadiums are housed at opposite ends of the city. The sport comes together at the Football Museum.

The downtown core houses a population of only about 50,000 (versus the greater Manchester area, which is closer to 2 million) as there weren't traditionally residences located in what used to be a fairly derelict area until the mid-'90s.

Now, buildings have been renovated to attract a younger

demographic of students and newly employed graduates.

The city is booming with restaurants, boutiques, and a vast array of vintage clothing shops. The most well-known is Afflecks, which has vintage and gothic clothing, jewelry, piercings and tattoo offerings spread over five eclectic floors.

The arts scene is thriving, as well, with museums and galleries offered free to the public, including the renowned Whitworth Art Gallery.

The food scene in Manchester has exploded beyond the traditional pub, from The Curry Mile, to the Alice in Wonderland-themed Richmond Tea Rooms, and to the authentic tastes of Malaysia at the fabulous Ning Restaurant.

Historic sites are protected and adapted across the city; most notably the Printworks Building, once home to the Daily Mirror, which relocated to London. This cavernous building's facade is still in-



University of Manchester.

tact, with an indoor dining and movie complex built as a faux outside street.

One "historic" site which will not be preserved is the original studio site for Coronation Street, the world's longest running television program.

Filming moved to the new Media City in 2013, and after a short period of offering set tours, the site will be demolished in 2016 to make room for hotels, theatres, and 2,500 apartments.

TRAVEL NOTES

Bucket list

High-end travel company Belmond is now taking reservations for a new train, the Grand Hibernian, which will be Ireland's first luxury train, launching in August 2016. The two- to six-night trips hit the countryside, the castles, plenty of coastline and the cities of both Ireland and Northern Ireland. Visit Belmond.com/grand-hibernian-train.

Shoulder seasons

Youth travel outfit Contiki has launched an off-season program for travel to Europe between October and March when prices drop and crowds thin out. More than 40 new tours ranging from three to 25 days will see you hoisting steins in Germany, skiing in Austria, or gallery-hopping in Paris. Visit Contiki.com.

DOUG WALLACE



The Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland. CHRIS HILL

SICILY

Reserve does not hold back on beauty

The Zingaro Nature Reserve is a wild and rugged stretch of land that runs along the coast of northwest Sicily.

Mountains rise above sandy beaches with views of the sea in two distinct bands of colour: translucent aqua in the shallow waters near the shore, and a deep, dark blue beyond.

Cars are not allowed and neither are new buildings.

The park is dotted with old stone structures, and families who lived and farmed in the area before the reserve was created in 1981 use pack mules to bring goods in and out.

Location, location

The park is located outside Castellammare del Golfo, about an hour west of Palermo.

Visitors can drive to the park from an agriturismo — a farm with guest rooms — through the pretty little town of Scopello. Parking is available in a lot just outside the reserve.

A short tunnel connects the parking lot to the trail, and when visitors emerge, they may not believe how instantly beautiful it is, requiring just the smallest effort to see the



A cluster of buildings clings to the coastline in the Zingaro Nature Reserve in northwest Sicily. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

stunning landscape.

The main trail splits into a few others, but they're well-marked. Visitors who want to keep it simple can just stay on the route that hugs the coast. It's a relatively easy trail with some ups and downs, but no real climbing other than some stairs. Now and then, a spur from the trail heads down to several small, pretty beaches.

At the end of May, the park was quiet, with wildflowers everywhere. There was no shade on the trail at midday, but the sea breeze was cooling and the air was fresh.

Essential info

Visitors can spend just a few hours at Zingaro, or choose to spend a whole day there, free of the motorized world, watching the light change as the day wears on and exploring this gem of a place.

Admission to Zingaro Nature Reserve costs 5 euros (\$7 CDN) for adults, and 3 euros (\$4.20) for children up to age 14. It's open daily, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Detailed directions, itineraries and places to stay can be found at riservazingaro.it.

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Jays can't swim with Shark

MLB

Samardzija outduels Dickey with 4-hit shutout

Jeff Samardzija kept the Chicago White Sox on a roll.

Samardzija had a four-hitter, Melky Cabrera homered and the White Sox shut out the Toronto Blue Jays 2-0.

The White Sox have won seven of nine and are starting to look like the team many thought would contend for a playoff spot this season.

"If we go out and do our job, we know what the outcome is gonna be," Samardzija said. "If we don't, and we don't have a strong last couple weeks of the month, we know what results gonna be, too."

"It's in our hands here in the clubhouse and we need to take care of it."

Samardzija (6-4) took care of things against the high-powered Toronto offense. He took a no-hitter into the sixth inning for a second straight game. It was his first complete game of the season. He struck out slugger Jose Bautista to end the two-hour, 15-minute game and threw 108 pitches.

"He's got a good, overpowering, live fastball and he's got a great slider," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said.

"He threw the slider behind in the count and the good ones can do that. He's easily one of the most sought-after guys out there."



White Sox pitcher Jeff Samardzija reacts to throwing a complete-game shutout over the Blue Jays in Chicago on Thursday.

JEFF HAYNES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THURSDAY In Chicago



Samardzija, who has been linked to trade rumours involving the Blue Jays, has pitched at least seven innings in seven straight starts, but Thursday was the first time during

that stretch he was able to get through the eighth inning. He had just one win during that span before Thursday.

"He was sharp, he was aggressive in the zone," Chicago manager Robin Ventura said. "His competitiveness is always there. That's probably the biggest thing that sticks out when you watch him pitch, emotionally and everything else."

Toronto's R.A. Dickey (3-10) allowed two runs and four hits

BACK AT EVEN

The Blue Jays (44-44) dropped to .500 for the first time since June 9 when Toronto was 30-30.

in seven innings.

Ryan Goins singled to right field with one out in the sixth inning to end Samardzija's no-hit bid.

Goins was later stranded at third base when all-star Josh Donaldson ground into an inning-ending double play.

The White Sox took the lead in the bottom of the sixth. Adam Eaton led off with a triple and later scored on a passed ball as catcher Russell Martin missed Dickey's knuckleball.

Cabrera then made it 2-0 with a solo shot into the right-field bullpen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB IN BRIEF

Ventura helps Royals cap four-game sweep of Rays

Lorenzo Cain and Salvador Perez hit two-run homers, Yordano Ventura went five innings in his return from the disabled list, and the Kansas City Royals beat the Tampa Bay Rays 8-3 on Thursday to finish off a four-game sweep.

Ventura (4-6) allowed three runs and four hits and three walks, striking out four. It was his first start since June 12, when an elbow condition began causing numbness in his hand.

The Royals scored at least seven runs in every game of their first four-game sweep since September 2008, against Seattle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tanaka pitches Yanks past A's, Gardner named all-star

Masahiro Tanaka allowed two hits over 7-2/3 innings, Brett Gardner hit a first-inning home run and learned midgame he had been picked for his first all-star team, and the New York Yankees rallied past the Oakland Athletics 6-2 Thursday.

Tanaka (5-3) ended a four-start winless streak, the longest drought of his 1-1/2-year major league career. He set season highs for innings and pitches (114), striking out six and walking one. One of the runs off him was unearned.

Gardner had his seventh three-hit game this season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Serena Williams can win her fourth consecutive major title with a victory on Saturday. ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WIMBLEDON

Serena easily dispatches Sharapova

Her game in high gear, history in the offing, Serena Williams is perfectly content to let everyone else talk about what a victory in the Wimbledon final would mean.

A "Serena Slam" of four consecutive major titles. The third leg of a calendar-year Grand Slam. A 21st major singles trophy, one short of the Open-era record.

For now, the No. 1-seeded Williams is keeping her thoughts to herself, declaring she won't entertain questions about those topics, even after easily dismiss-

ing No. 4 Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals at the All England Club on Thursday to close in on the milestones.

"I don't want the pressure of that, and I'm not thinking of that. When you talk about it every time, you can't help but think about it," Williams said. "It's been OK just to free my brain from that."

Whatever works. Clearly, Williams is doing plenty right at the

moment. Particularly against Sharapova, whom she's beaten 17 times in a row.

Williams hit 13 aces, reaching 123 m.p.h. Fewer than half her serves were put in play. She never faced a break point, and was pushed to deuce just once on her serve.

In sum, Williams made Sharapova look like some sort of middle-of-the-pack wannabe, rather than the five-time ma-

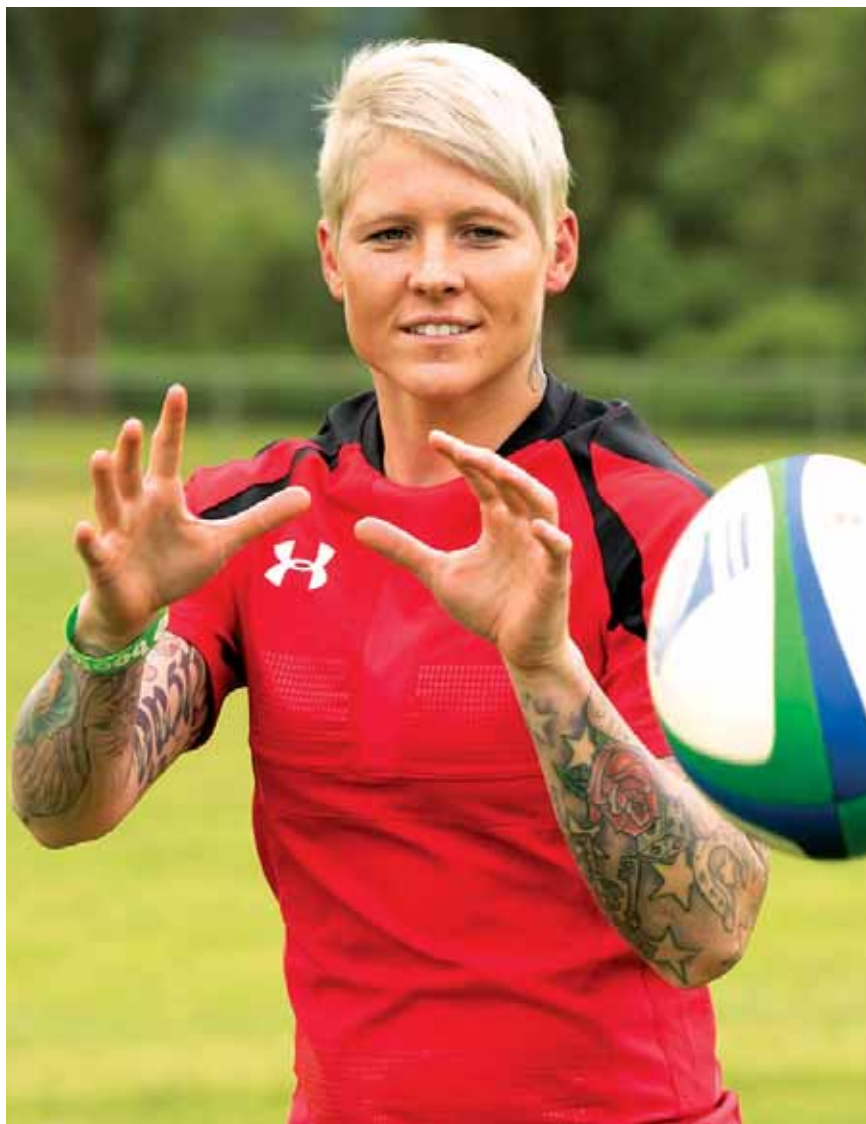
jor champion, career Grand Slam owner and former No. 1 that she is.

"Nothing to do with Sharapova," said Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "She does this to most of the top 10 players. It's true. She's dominating the game for a long time."

On Saturday, with so much at stake, Williams will face No. 20 Garbine Muguruza of Spain, who advanced to her first Grand Slam final by eliminating No. 13 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

29
The number of winners Williams had against Sharapova, who managed just nine.

Rugby sevens looking to spark Canadian passion



Rugby sevens captain Jen Kish and the Canadian women's team open up the Pan Am Games tournament against Colombia on Saturday in Toronto. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAN AM GAMES

Women's team hope to follow in footsteps of soccer success

Canadian rugby captain Jen Kish, as most athletes in Toronto do, wants to leave the Pan Am Games with a gold medal around her neck. But her entire rugby sevens team also wants to win something far less tangible while they're in Toronto: The support of a nation.

That's what the women's soccer team won at the London Olympics, along with its bronze medal, and, as a consequence, played to packed crowds on home soil at the Women's World Cup.

"To see how the women's soccer team has bloomed from medalling in the last Olympics, it's amazing and we're very envious of that. We always say to each other, 'That's going to be us one day,'" Kish said.

"As rugby continues to build in Canada and people start to learn rugby and get excited about it come Rio, where we have a good potential of medalling, I think the same thing will happen."

This is the debut of women's rugby in any multi-sport Games and, for many Canadians, the first taste of what they could see during the 2016 Rio Olympic tournament. Canada's women have already qualified to play there.

But the very thing that made the sevens game so appealing to

“These girls have lots of swagger and it's justified.

Canada rugby sevens head coach John Tait

the International Olympic Committee — the speed of the game and its short tournaments — doesn't give players much time to develop new fans.

In the Women's World Cup, the Canadians played five soccer matches over three weeks. This weekend at the Pan Am Games, Canada's rugby players will hit the pitch for that many matches in just two days. Then, if all goes well, their sixth match will be Sunday night for the gold medal.

The men's two-day sevens tournament runs alongside the women's matches at Exhibition Stadium.

"It's bang for your buck," Kish said of their speedy and action-packed-filled tournament days.

"If you have a short attention span, it's a great sport for you."

Each game is 14 minutes long except for the gold-medal round, when exhausted players are "rewarded" with a 20-minute game.

Every minute is action-packed — tackle, pass, sprint, repeat — and, with each converted try worth seven points, the lead often trades back and forth.

It's a fast and unpredictable game.

That's what Rugby Canada hopes the nation will fall in love with.

"It's a fast, exciting game; seven people are covering the pitch and that requires a lot of hard work at a fast pace," Canadian player Ghislaine Landry said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ WHAT TO WATCH

Games take Toronto area

The wait is over.

After years of planning, months of preparation and countless hours of volunteer work, the 2015 Pan Am Games have landed in Toronto.

FRIDAY

The opening ceremony starts Friday at 6 p.m. at the Rogers Centre. A capacity crowd of 45,000 will be wowed by a special performance from Cirque du Soleil. The event will be broadcast by CBC.



SATURDAY

The Games' starting pistol sounds off Saturday at 7 a.m., with the first medals being awarded in women's 400-metre canoeing. Canada's golden paddler, Adam van Koeverden,



Adam van Koeverden
GETTY IMAGES

will also be hitting the water for the men's kayak sprint.

Canada's men's rugby team starts its gold medal defence Saturday at 10 a.m.,

squaring off against Guyana.

SUNDAY

Sunday's marquee is undoubtedly men's soccer, with the Canadian team facing stiff competition from Brazil in Hamilton. The game kicks off at 6:35 p.m.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

OPEN-WATER SWIMMING

Pedal to the metal for Weinberger

After yet another marathon training session in his home pool in Vancouver, Richard Weinberger slips on an Amon Amarth T-shirt and gets ready to chat.

Olympic medallist, open-water swimmer and Swedish melodic death metal band come together in one sleek surfer dude package.

"I went to the concert with my sister," Weinberger said enthusiastically. "It was pretty awesome."

Viking metal — Amon Amarth comes from the Sindarin name of Mount Doom in The Lord of

the Rings — has not always been

the music of choice before competition for the mellow 25-year-old. Trance or progressive house used to be his pre-race soundtrack. "Recently I'm into more of a darker metal phase," he explained. "I bounce back and forth."

Weinberger may be cueing up Amon Amarth on Sunday as he looks to defend his Pan American Games title.

Weinberger, who won Olympic bronze in 2012, and his fellow open-water swimmers will race six 1.67-kilometre laps at the Ontario Place west channel. Swimming 10 kilometres in open water might seem like a watery Mount Doom for most. But Weinberger embraces his gruelling discipline. He likes the strategy of the race and just likes to challenge himself.

7

Weinberger is one of seven Canadian defending individual Pan Am champions at the Games.

"It's pretty brutal but you're normally caught up in the race. You have a lot of distractions."

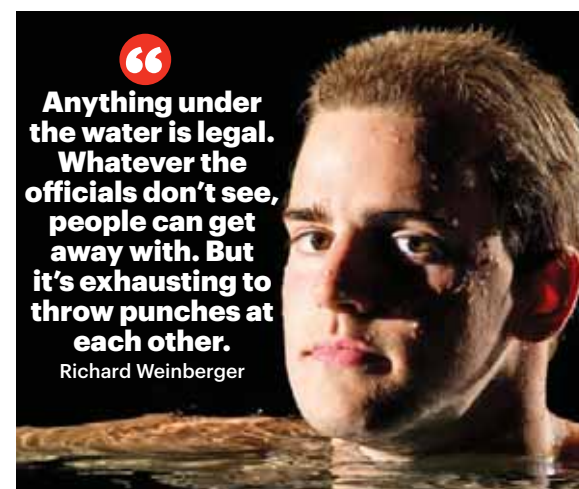
Weinberger says there are mental highs and lows in every race, which are balanced by the hours of training. Then there are the other swimmers. Open-water racing can be a contact sport.

"Anything under the water is legal," he said. "Whatever the officials don't see, people can get away with. But generally you're working on efficiency and strategy. It's very exhausting to throw punches at each other."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

“Anything under the water is legal. Whatever the officials don't see, people can get away with. But it's exhausting to throw punches at each other.

Richard Weinberger



DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



TRAINING GRACE ON WHEELS The United States' Courtney Donovan trains at the roller figure skating venue for the Pan Am Games at Exhibition Centre in Toronto on Wednesday. The event gets underway this weekend.

GREGORY BULL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP CONTENDERS

Americans boast lots of Olympians

The U.S. Olympic Committee has announced a 623-member team for the Pan American Games.

That number will be trimmed slightly, however. The preliminary 24-player men's basketball team will be reduced to 12 by July 15. And one male and one female replacement athlete are expected to be named in the coming days for track and field to complete the team.

The U.S. team, which has finished first in total Pan Am medals in all but one appearance, is smaller than Canada's 720-member squad.

"Every four years the Pan American Games afford U.S. athletes the rare opportunity to represent their country in a multi-sport setting outside the Olympic Games," USOC CEO Scott Blackmun said in a statement Monday.

"Some of the most decorated U.S. athletes in their sports will be competing alongside athletes representing the United States for the first time, and I'm confident this group will make our nation proud. The



American swimmer Natalie Coughlin, a winner of 12 Olympic medals, will compete in Toronto. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Pan Am Games are especially important for the 10 sports that have direct Olympic qualification on the line, and we are excited to support all our athletes in every way possible."

The U.S. Pan Am squad features 111 Olympians, including 38 Olympic medallists and 20 Olympic champions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian BMXers are ready to ride

PAN AM GAMES

Centennial Park in Etobicoke to host races

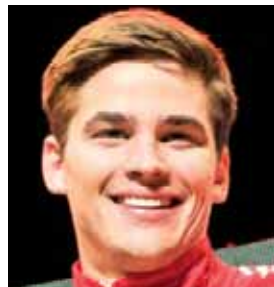
Tory Nyhaug shrugs because it's so obvious. A gold medal at the Pan Am Games would be a premier feather in his cap — rather, in the goggle strap around his full-face helmet.

The 23-year-old out of Coquitlam, B.C. is perhaps Canada's best hope for a podium finish in the BMX event. He won the national title last week — his fifth straight victory — and feels he's primed to perform to his highest ability at the newly-built Centennial Park race track in Etobicoke, where the first heats of the event will begin Friday.

"To compete in a major event in Canada is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so it's going to be exciting," said Nyhaug. At ninth place, he is currently the highest seeded Canadian in the BMX rankings.

"It's not like a typical race where you have to spend every minute trying to figure out the track. We already kind of know the track," he continued. "I'm just going to race the best I can and hopefully at the end I'm in the final and going for a podium."

Nyhaug was among the four racers competing for Canada who were introduced to the media in Toronto on Wednesday. He is the only member to have raced in the Olympics: he rode in London in 2012 but failed to advance to the semi-finals, just weeks after



Tory Nyhaug

BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

he ruptured his spleen for the second time at a BMX event and had the organ surgically removed. Since then, Nyhaug has cracked the podium on the world cup circuit several times, claiming a career-best silver at the 2014 world championships.

The team includes Jimmy Brown and Daina Tuchscherer, who are both from Airdrie, Alta., as well as Amelia Walsh, who has won three straight Canadian titles and is the highest ranked Canadian woman in the world at 26th.

But the competition will be fierce. Some of the best racers in the sport are suiting up for the Pan Ams, including No. 2-ranked American Connor Fields and Colombia's Mariana Pajon, the top-seeded female BMXer in the world and gold medalist at the London Olympics.

Nyhaug cautioned that, though the Canadians are familiar with the track, their opponents have all week to practise on it and will be ready to go when qualifying time trials start on Friday.

"On race day, it's all going to be equal," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Tory Nyhaug competed in the men's BMX cycling at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

PHIL WALTER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Ready in

Prep time: 10

Cook time: 16

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 4 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 lb boneless chicken breast, pounded
- 4 tsp vegetable oil, divided
- 3 cups sliced oyster mushrooms (approx. 8 oz)
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 1/3 cup white wine
- 2/3 cup chicken stock
- 2/3 cup 2% evaporated milk
- 1 tsp mustard
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley

Directions

1. Combine flour, cheese, salt

and pepper on plate. Coat chicken on both sides.

2. In a large skillet, add 2 tsp oil and sauté chicken for four minutes, turning once. Remove and set aside. Add remaining 2 tsp oil and sauté mushrooms for five minutes just until cooked and no moisture is left. Add garlic and sauté one minute.

3. Add wine to mushrooms and sauté for one minute or until almost evaporated.

4. In a bowl, combine stock, milk, mustard and flour until combined. Add to skillet with mushrooms, add chicken, cover and simmer on lowest heat for five minutes, turning once or until sauce is slightly thickened. Do not cook on higher heat or milk will curdle. Garnish with parsley.

Nutrition per serving

- Calories 370
- Protein 43.5 g
- Total fat 11.4 g

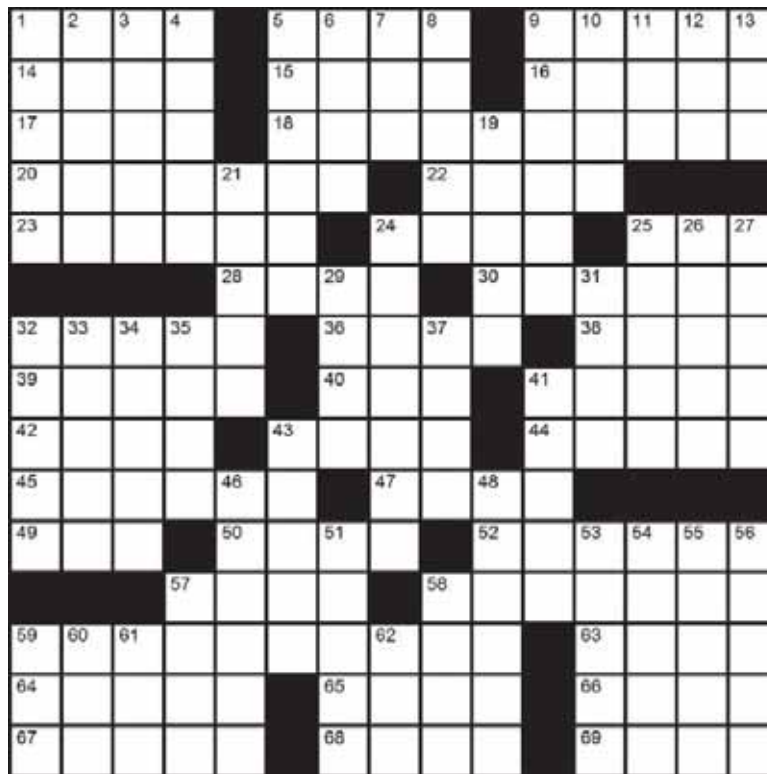
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Relaxed running pace
5. 'Hypn' suffix
9. '80s rockabilly hit: "___ Cat Strut"
14. Reykjavik is its cap.
15. Katy Perry hit
16. Angered
17. Gotchas!
18. 2015: Every-four-years sporting event that's in Toronto this summer: 3 wds.
20. Hoped-for candidate on a matchmaker's list: 2 wds.
22. Goofball
23. Singer/actress Ms. Gomez
24. Ancient queen of Greek mythology
25. Key above Caps Lock
28. Grimm opener...
30. Light up, in verse
32. Montreal ___ (Where the Canadiens once played)
36. Nameless [abbr.]
38. "Ah, me."
39. Picture
40. Glamorous getaway
41. Life sign
42. Man on the Moon
43. Convene
44. That is, in Latin: 2 wds.
45. Fire up
47. Blue-green
49. Enunciate
50. Mr. Estrada



52. Understated
57. Slumps
58. Headache pill
59. Magical password! 2 wds.
63. Three-___ sloth
64. "Dawson's Creek" actress Ms. Holmes

65. Stratford-___Avon
66. "No Particular Place ___" by Chuck Berry
67. Conform
68. Formerly, fancily
69. Disgorge

DOWN

1. Mr. Hemsworth's
2. Earth tone
3. "___ Harbor" (2001)
4. Vintage dairy products cow
5. "___ Black" (TV

- show starring Canadian actress Tati Maslany)
6. Perfectly: 2 wds. + letter
7. Mr. Fleming, James Bond creator
8. Pet rocks, for one

9. Indicate
10. Cafeteria carrier
11. Clash
12. Lunch
13. "Okay."
19. Comedian/actor Cheech
21. Pointed-hat garden ornament
24. Nag
25. Tutu textile
26. Accumulate
27. Hassle
29. Pillow's packaging
31. Glorify
32. Done, in Montreal
33. ___-3 fatty acids
34. Forecast on an in-need-of-umbrella day
35. Kind of citrus fruit
37. Like Cheerios
41. WWII-era model
43. Unify in the corporate world
46. Silverware service: 2 wds.
48. Acquiesce
51. Debated dispute
53. Ship's mooring posts
54. Soldiers group
55. Vassal
56. Fund
57. Trim
58. Tunestress
59. Quebec-made cheese
60. Launch site
61. Helios 'H'
62. Calendar abbr.

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your feelings for a certain individual will reach a peak. However, the planets warn that this may not be the best time to reveal your true intentions — keep them secret just a little while longer.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Saturn urges you to face up to problems in your most important relationships. You need to bring resentments into the open where they can be dealt with once and for all.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You must take care of duties and responsibilities that should have been taken care of long ago. You've put them off long enough — now it's time to knuckle down.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The planets warn you need to be careful who you let into the secrets of your heart. It could be you have a rival for the object of your affections. Don't let them know how you feel.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
What happens today will touch you deeply and magnify your feelings — you may not be able to control yourself. If you lose your cool you must make amends as soon as possible.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't let anyone tell you what you should and should not be doing. Cosmic activity urges you to have a good time socially whether or not loved ones or authority figures approve.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
No matter how hungry you are for fame and fortune you must not cut corners or take liberties. If you want success to last you must make sure it has strong foundations.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If a friend or work colleague proposes that you do something different over the next few days don't dismiss the idea out of hand. You may be a creature of habit but sometimes it is good to go off at a tangent.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The planets suggest you will be somewhat unyielding today. Be warned, however, that if it comes down to a battle of wills you are likely to be the long-term loser.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You have many great ideas but before you start working on any of them it might be wise to seek the opinions of people you trust. There may be something small but important that you have missed.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be tempted to lay down the law with someone who did a poor job or let you down, but is that really the best approach? Find out why they failed. Maybe they need help.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Cosmic activity makes you both dynamic and relaxed about life and with a combination like that you are sure to succeed.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



JESUS IS THE MASTER KEY

The wedding at Cana in Galilee could have been a flop when they ran out of wine if Jesus had not stepped in. He said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water" ... "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." (John 2:7-8 NIV). The wine was recorded to be the best at the ceremony. Jesus is the master key to the miracle that will transform your world. Invite Him to your life today.

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